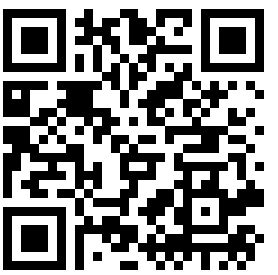
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

https://books.google.com



THE LIBRARY

CLASS 330.842
BOOK F G7982

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

1951
3-H

COLONIAL OFFICE

AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES 1951

VOLUME III

THE WEST AFRICAN TERRITORIES

The Gambia, The Gold Coast,
Nigeria and Sierra Leone,
and St. Helena

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1952

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	vi
A. THE GAMBIA	1
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	1
Geographic and Climatic Features	1
Population	1
Social Amenities	1
— *Education*	1
— *Health*	2
— *Housing*	2
Political Structure	2
— *Local Government*	3
— *Relations with Adjacent Territories*	3
Principal Economic Legislation	3
— *General*	3
— *Trade Tariffs*	4
— *Labour*	5
— *Land Tenure*	5
— *Immigration*	5
Communications and Transport	5
— *Railways*	5
— *Roads*	5
— *Harbours, Inland Waterways and Shipping*	5
— *Aviation and Meteorological Services*	5
— *Telegraphic Services*	5
— *Postal Services*	6
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	6
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	6
Local Food Products	6
Fisheries	6
Minerals	7
Manufactures	7
Village Industries	7
Other Economic Activities	7
— *Organization of Trade*	7
— *Professions*	7
Co-operative Movement	7
Employment and Labour Supply	7
Fuel and Power	7
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	8
Public Finance	8
Currency and Banking	9
Private Investment	9
National Income	9
Standard and Cost of Living	9
Balance of Trade	10
IV. DEVELOPMENT	15
Government Activities and Plans	15
Other Development	16
Map	11
B. THE GOLD COAST	17
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	17
Geographic and Climatic Features	17
Population	17
Social Amenities	19
— *Education*	19
— *Health*	19
— *Housing*	19
— *Social Security*	20
Political Structure	20
— *Constitutional and Political Background*	20
— *Local Government*	21
— *Municipal Government*	21
— *Native Administration*	21
— *Principal Departments of the Administration*	21
— *Responsibility for Economic Affairs*	22
Principal Economic Legislation	22
— *General*	22
— *Trade Tariffs*	23
— *Labour*	24
— *Land Tenure*	24
— *Immigration*	24
Communications and Transport	25
— *External Communications*	25
— *Internal Communications*	25
— *Telegraphic Service*	25
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	25
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	25
Local Food Products	26
Cash Crops	27
— *Cocoa*	27
— *Cash Crops other than Cocoa*	28
— *Oil Palm Products*	28
— *Copra*	29
— *Coffee*	29
— *Kola*	29
— *Citrus*	29
— *Bananas*	29
— *Rice*	29
— *Cotton*	29
— *Shea*	30
— *Plans for the Expansion of Production*	30
Forestry	30
Fisheries	31
Minerals	31
— *Gold*	31
— *Silver*	32
— *Diamonds*	32
— *Manganese*	32
— *Bauxite*	32
— *Labour employed in the mining industry*	33
— *Government mining policy*	33
— *Royalties*	33
Manufactures	33
Village Industries	33
Other Economic Activities	33
— *Organization of Trade*	33
— *Professions*	34
Co-operative Movement	34
Employment and Labour Supply	34
— *Local Employment*	34
— *Migrant Labour*	35
Fuel and Power	35
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	36
Public Finance	36
— *Central Government*	36
— *Native Authorities*	39
— *Town Councils*	40
Currency and Banking	40
— *Financial Institutions*	41
— *Loan and Credit Facilities*	41
— *Post Office Savings Bank and the Savings Movement*	41
Private Investment	41
Standard and Cost of Living	41
Balance of Trade and Payments	41

1380484

Digitized by Google

U of M Bindery
JAN 18 '54

	Page
IV. DEVELOPMENT	47
Government Activities and Plans	47
Other Development	48
Map *facing page*	48
C. NIGERIA	49
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	49
Geographic and Climatic Features	49
Population	49
Social Amenities	50
— *Education*	50
— *Health*	50
— *Housing*	50
— *Social Security*	51
Political Structure	51
— *Constitutional and Political Background*	51
— *Local Government*	51
— *Administrative Departments*	51
— *External Affairs*	51
Principal Economic Legislation	51
— *General*	51
— *Trade Tariffs*	52
— *Labour*	53
— *Land Tenure*	53
— *Immigration*	53
Communications and Transport	53
— *Railways*	53
— *Roads*	54
— *Harbour Facilities*	54
— *Shipping Services*	55
— *Inland Waterways*	55
— *Aviation and Meteorological Services*	55
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	55
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	55
Local Food Products	56
Cash Crops	56
— *Cocoa*	57
— *Palm products*	58
— *Groundnuts*	59
— *Benniseed*	59
— *Cotton*	60
— *Rubber*	60
Forestry	60
Fisheries	61
Minerals	61
— *Tin*	61
— *Coal and Lignite*	61
— *Columbite and Tantalite*	62
— *Gold*	62
— *Lead-silver-zinc*	62
— *Iron*	62
— *Petroleum*	62
— *Salt*	62
Manufactures	62
Village Industries	63
Other Economic Activities	63
— *Distributive Trade*	63
Co-operative Movement	63
Employment and Labour Supply	63
— *Local Employment*	63
— *Migrant Labour*	63
Fuel and Power	64
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	64
Public Finance	64
— *Central Government*	64
— *Local Government*	66
Currency and Banking	66
— *Commercial Banks*	67
— *Post Office Savings Bank*	67
Private Investment	67
National Income	67
Balance of Trade and Payments	67
IV. DEVELOPMENT	73
Government Activities and Plans	73
— *The Ten-Year Development Plan*	73
— *Settlement Schemes*	74
— *Other Government Projects*	74
Other Development	74
— *Public Corporations*	74
— *Private Enterprise*	76
Map *facing page*	48
D. SIERRA LEONE	76
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	76
Geographic and Climatic Features	76
Population	76
Social Amenities	77
— *Education*	77
— *Health*	78
— *Housing*	78
— *Social Security*	78
Political Structure	78
— *Local Government*	78
— *Economic Departments of the Administration*	79
— *Relations with Adjacent Territories and Regional and International Organizations*	79
Principal Economic Legislation	79
— *General*	79
— *Trade Tariffs*	79
— *Labour*	80
— *Land Tenure*	80
— *Immigration*	80
Transport and Communications	80
— *Roads*	80
— *Railways*	80
— *Water Transport*	80
— *Port Facilities*	81
— *Shipping Services*	81
— *Airports*	81
— *Postal and Telegraphic Services*	81
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	81
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	81
Local Food Products	81
Cash Crops	82
Forestry	83
Fisheries	83
Minerals	83
Local Manufactures	84
Village Industries	84
Other Economic Activities	84
— *Distributive Trade*	84
— *Professions*	84
Co-operative Movement	85
Employment and Labour Supply	85
— *Local Employment*	85
— *Migrant Labour*	85
Fuel and Power	86

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

	Page
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	86
Public Finance	86
— *Central Government*	86
— *Local Government*	88
Currency and Banking	88
Private Investment	89
National Income	89
Cost of Living	89
Balance of Trade	90
IV. DEVELOPMENT	95
Government Activities	95
Map	*facing page* 94
E. ST. HELENA	96
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	96
Geographic and Climatic Features	96
Population	96
Social Amenities	97
— *Education*	97
— *Health*	97
— *Housing*	97
— *Social Security*	97
Political Structure	97
Principal Economic Legislation	97
— *General*	97
— *Trade Tariffs*	98
— *Land Tenure*	99
— *Immigration*	99
Communications and Transport	99
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	99
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	99
Local Food Products	99
Cash Crops	99
Forestry	99
Fisheries	99
Manufactures	99
Village Industries	100
Other Economic Activities	100
— *Tourist Trade*	100
— *Distributive Trade*	100
— *Professions*	100
Co-operative Movement	100
Employment and Labour	100
— *Local Employment*	100
— *Migrant Labour*	100
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	100
Public Finance	100
Currency and Banking	101
Private Investment	102
Cost of Living	102
Balance of Trade	102
IV. DEVELOPMENT	102
— *Agriculture and Forestry*	102
— *Housing*	102
— *Education*	102
— *Roads*	103
— *Water*	103
— *Medical*	103
— *Local Industries*	103

Digitized by Google

PREFACE

Before the war the Colonial Office published, at approximately yearly intervals, a survey in which were assembled the main facts about the economic situation of the Colonial territories. The last of these, relating to the year 1937, was issued in 1940 (" An Economic Survey of the Colonial Empire (1937) "—Colonial No. 179), after which their publication was suspended. In the meantime there has been a very considerable increase both in popular interest in the affairs of the Colonial territories and in the emphasis laid on Colonial development. It is therefore felt to be appropriate that the ready source of statistical and other relevant information which the survey provided should once again be made available.

This new edition of the survey is being published, not in a single volume as before, but in a series of seven volumes, six of which contain memoranda describing the economic features of each of the Colonial territories in turn, grouped for convenience as follows :—

Volume I.—The Central African and the High Commission territories (Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland) ;

Volume II.—The East African territories (Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar and the Somaliland Protectorate), with Aden, Mauritius and Seychelles ;

Volume III.—The West African territories (Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia), with St. Helena ;

Volume IV.—The West Indian and American territories (Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, the Leeward Islands and the Windward Islands), with the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Falkland Islands ;

Volume V.—The Far Eastern territories (The Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei) ;

Volume VI.—The Mediterranean and Pacific territories (Cyprus, Gibraltar, Fiji, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and the New Hebrides). This volume also includes a chapter on the economic situation of Malta.

An endeavour has been made to prepare the memoranda, of which the above volumes are composed, on uniform lines, so that the same essential facts may be given for each Colonial territory. The main headings under which the information in each is classified are as follows :—

(1) **General Background**

Geographic and climatic features ; population ; social amenities ; political structure ; principal economic legislation ; communications and transport.

(2) **Productive Activities**

Agricultural conditions and methods ; local food products ; cash crops ; forestry ; fisheries ; minerals ; manufactures ; village industries ; other industries ; co-operative movements ; employment and labour supply ; fuel and power (including water).

(3) **Finance and Trade**

Public finance ; currency and banking ; private investment ; national income ; standard and cost of living ; balance of trade.

(4) **Development**

Governmental activities and plans ; other development proceeding or planned.

(5) **Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous information not covered by the preceding headings.

Volume VII contains a series of memoranda dealing in greater detail than elsewhere with the commodities produced in the Colonial territories as a whole, both those which are intended for export and those which are retained for domestic consumption, together with certain other general and statistical information.

The component volumes of the survey are not being published simultaneously or necessarily in the order indicated above, but as and when the material for each is ready for presentation.

In each case the volume will contain information covering the period from 1938 up to the latest year for which it is available. The present volume includes, so far as practicable, information available during 1951.

While every care has been taken in compiling the Survey, the Secretary of State cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any of the individual facts and figures in its contents, many of which are derived from sources outside the Colonial Office.

Digitized by Google

VOLUME III. THE WEST AFRICAN TERRITORIES

A. THE GAMBIA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographic and Climatic Features

The Colony consists of the Island of St. Mary and an area of the mainland adjacent to Bathurst known as the Division of Kombo St. Mary. The capital of the Gambia is Bathurst, situated on the Island of St. Mary.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory extending to approximately 10 kilometres on each bank of the Gambia river, and for nearly 300 miles from Bathurst. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of tide of 2 feet. During the rains the upper river has a maximum rise of some 30 feet.

The total area of the Colony is about 70 square miles and of the Protectorate about 3,960.

The period during which most, if not all, the rain falls is from June to October, when the prevailing wind is moist and westerly or south-westerly. During this season, the relative humidity, vapour pressure and dew point are high; the low cloud coverage is great and the types of cloud varied; and the diurnal variation is low. The rainfall is extremely variable from year to year ranging between 30 and 50 inches.

The dry easterly or north-easterly "Harmattan" is the controlling factor during the rest of the year and brings with it a dust haze, which occasionally reduces visibility to less than one mile. During this period the relative humidity, vapour pressure and dew point are low; the low cloud coverage is negligible and limited to stratus or strato-cumulus; and the diurnal variation is great, particularly at inland stations, which are away from the moderating influence of the sea and consequently experience high temperatures during the day and low temperatures during the night. It is during this season also that early morning mist and fog are most prevalent.

The climate of the Gambia during the dry season from the middle of November to the middle of May is pleasant and generally healthy. During the wet season from June to October the conditions are much the same as elsewhere on the West Coast of Africa. The climate up-river is very much hotter, especially during the period February to June. Then the onset of the rains produces cooler and more pleasant conditions than the extremely hot, dry months preceding them.

In the interior the temperature varies between 60° and 110°, and in Bathurst between 60° and 100°.

The territory is flat and there are no lakes, forests or prominent features besides the river, from which branch numerous creeks some of them large and navigable. For 100 miles above Bathurst the areas near the river and creeks are mangrove swamps with extensive mud flats. The typical dry land is open bush or savannah. The soil is mainly sandy with laterite outcrops.

Population

The total population of the Gambia at the end of 1949 was estimated at approximately 276,000, of which some 22,000 were in the Colony.

Vital statistics are available only for Bathurst. The crude death rate in 1950 was 24 per 1,000, and the birth rate 41 per 1,000. For the past three years the infantile mortality rate has been around 100 per 1,000 live births compared with 398 in 1928 and 184 in 1938.

A large number of farmers from the neighbouring French and Portuguese territory enter annually for the groundnut farming season. Their numbers are liable to considerable fluctuation. No reliable statistics can be furnished for movements of the African population as there is only complete immigration control at Bathurst and Yundum airport.

There are few Gambians permanently living abroad.

There are some 120 Lebanese, 54 French and approximately 200 British (Europeans) in the territory—nearly all of whom are engaged in Government service, missionary work or commerce.

The great majority of the African population is engaged in agriculture. The following table shows the numbers employed in the various occupations (other than agriculture) at the end of 1950:—

WAGE EMPLOYMENT, 1950

Labourers	2,900
Masons	175
Motor Drivers	220
Carpenters and Joiners	255
Fitters and Mechanics	170
Blacksmiths	60
Electricians	60
Traders and Shopkeepers	295
Clerks	560
Others	645

Social Amenities

Education

The Government is now responsible for primary education in Bathurst, though the schools have a religious grouping, and are administered through Management Committees on each of which the appropriate religious authority is represented. These Government schools are grouped as follows:—

1 each Anglican/Methodist boys' primary, girls' primary and infant school;

1 each Roman Catholic boys' primary, girls' primary and infant school;

1 each Mohammedan boys' primary and infant school.

Education in the primary schools goes up to Standard VII, and these eight primary and infant schools had a total of 2,172 children on the registers in 1949. In connection with them the Government maintains a Domestic Science Centre for girls and also an Arts and Crafts Centre which is attended by boys in Standards V, VI and VII. At Bakau, a Government school was opened in September, 1947, at present the only Government school in the Colony outside Bathurst.

There are four secondary schools in Bathurst—a Methodist Boys' High School and a Methodist Girls' High School and one Roman Catholic Secondary School for boys and one for girls. The total number of secondary school pupils on the rolls of these schools, which are controlled by the Missions concerned but receive substantial grants from Government, was 184 boys and 175 girls in 1949. The Methodist Girls' High School runs private kindergarten and preparatory classes attended by 148 children. The curriculum goes as far as School Certificate in these secondary schools.

A School of Science serving all four secondary schools was opened in January, 1947. It is run by a Board of Management on which the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions and the Government have equal representation.

The Government also maintains in Bathurst classes for adult illiterates with an average roll of 30. For children who are over-age for admission to primary schools there are classes attended by 164 boys and, in a different building, by 18 girls.

There is no post-secondary education in the Gambia. Teachers are sent for training either to Freetown or Achimota under Government scholarships.

Digitized by Google

In the Protectorate there is a Government school at Georgetown, namely, Armitage School with a roll of 137 boys, which gives elementary education and also has two middle classes and a vocational class. A centre for the training of teachers was established in 1949.

Up to the end of 1949 12 village schools had been opened by Native Authorities, seven in the Central Division, two in the Western Division, and three in the MacCarthy Island Division.

The Roman Catholic Mission runs an elementary school at Fula Bantang in MacCarthy Island Division with 21 pupils on the roll (1949), and another at Basse, Mansajang, in Upper River Division with 51 pupils on the roll. Both schools have a curriculum with a practical bias adapted to Protectorate life and occupations, and both are in predominantly Fula areas where the Mohammedan creed has not so much force. A third elementary school has been opened at Kanefing and an infant school in Basse.

The Anglican Mission has a centre at Kristikunda in the extreme east of the Protectorate where there is a small elementary school for children of neighbouring Fula villages which receives a small Government grant.

Health

The standard of health of most of the population, particularly in the rural areas, is low. There is a vicious circle of poverty, malnutrition, infestation with parasites, and infections. The interdependence of all these factors is so close that it is hard to say which might be cause or which effect.

The chief certified causes of death are pneumonia and bronchitis, malaria, gastro-enteritis and dysentery, and pulmonary tuberculosis.

Throughout the whole country the most important disease is malaria which is universal. Its real effect upon the population has yet to be measured, but it is believed that it is a main factor in holding the people at a low standard of health. Spleen rates of children from 2-10 years average about 70 per cent.

Trypanosomiasis is widespread in the whole of the Protectorate ; only a very few villages of a considerable number surveyed have been found uninfected. Incidence in different villages varies up to a maximum of 13 per cent. Of 17,000 persons examined in representative villages, 44 per cent were found to be infected.

The country is in the endemic zone of yellow fever. The last recognized epidemic occurred in 1934 but it is known that infection has occurred unrecognized since that date. Other important endemic diseases are schistosomiasis (particularly in the eastern half of the country), filariasis and intestinal helminthiasis. Epidemics of smallpox and cerebro-spinal fever are liable to occur at the beginning of the year though the former is being brought under control by vaccination.

In all villages signs of nutritional deficiency are recognizable and it has been observed that these increase at the end of the " hungry season " before the harvest. This is a time of great stress for the rural population as it coincides with the period of their greatest agricultural activity and labour. The transmission of insect-borne and some other diseases also tends to occur during the rains. All these factors may well contribute to ineffective labour and low output at a season when the greatest efficiency and effort are needed.

There are two hospitals ; one at Bathurst, and one at Bansang, 200 miles up-river. The latter is an excellent small hospital with 50 beds ; the Bathurst hospital is poor and antiquated but is now being rebuilt. On completion it will be a modern hospital with about 150 beds. As ancillaries to these hospitals there are throughout the country a number of dispensaries under the care of African dispensers. These are distributed so as to be accessible to most villages ; they treat the more important endemic diseases and provide relief for a number of ailments. In the wharf-towns Sanitary Inspectors are posted ; they supervise the sanitation of the towns and the temporary camps for labourers engaged in loading ships during the trade-season. They are also responsible for vaccination against smallpox in the surrounding villages.

The Human Nutrition Unit of the Medical Research Council have a Research Station on the coast near Bathurst. Space and facilities are being made available at the Research Station for medical research work on subjects other than nutrition.

Plans for the reclamation of some 50 square miles of swamp in the vicinity of Bathurst have been prepared ; if the plan is implemented general health conditions in the Colony will be improved and the incidence of malaria reduced.

Housing

A minority of the more prosperous members of the African and Syrian community—higher grade employees of Government and commercial firms, traders, professional men, and the like—build good permanent houses, bungalows or substantial two-storeyed houses. These are built according to a recognizable European plan with provision of bedrooms, living rooms, etc., within one building. Often, though, kitchens, bathrooms and sanitary accommodation are provided in separate annexes with distinctly lower standards of building and architecture. These buildings are only to be found in Bathurst, its adjacent suburbs, and a few of the more important trading-stations.

The majority of the population live in compounds—enclosed yards with a number of huts, containing up to four rooms each. The best type of building with local materials, is made of borassus palms (known locally as " rhun ") and bamboo. The trunk of the male rhun palm is split, and forms the main timber-framework of the house ; to this framework is nailed a woven bamboo-matting called " krinting." In the better buildings the krinting is covered, on one or both sides, by a good lime-plaster, the lime being prepared by burning oyster shells, which are abundant on the mangroves in the saline swamps. Buildings of this type can be very satisfactory, particularly if built with concrete floors ; many, however, are built without plaster and outside Bathurst earth-floors are usual. Buildings are also constructed of sun-dried bricks.

Employees in Government service may obtain Government loans, free of interest, towards the expenses of building or repairing houses. Before the loan is granted, the plans for building or repair must be approved and inspections are made of the building-work to ensure that it is satisfactory. There are no building societies.

Political Structure

The office of Governor is constituted by the Letters Patent of 29th November, 1946, which also provide for an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

Under Royal Instructions of the same date, amended by additional instructions dated 26th November, 1947, the Executive Council is declared to consist of the Colonial Secretary as an *ex-officio* member and such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. At present there are eight other members, four of whom are Government officials, one an elected member of the Legislative Council, and three who are nominated members of the Legislative Council. The Governor is the President of the Executive Council.

The Legislative Council was declared by the Gambia (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1946, to consist of the Governor as President, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary as *ex-officio* members, and such number of nominated official and unofficial members as His Majesty, through a Secretary of State, may direct, and one elected member. At present there are three official and six unofficial nominated members. Four of the unofficial members represent the interests of the Protectorate, and three of these are Chiefs. Under the Gambia (Legislative Council) Amendment Order, 1951, the Legislative Council is to consist of the Governor as President, a vice-President to be appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Secretary of State ; three *ex-officio* members ; such a number of nominated official members and such a number of nominated

Digitized by Google

unofficial members (not being less than four) as His Majesty, through the Secretary of State, may direct; and three elected members. Of the three elected members two will be elected for the town of Bathurst and one for the Kombo St. Mary Division.

Of the various portions of the Colony, Brefet, Bajana, MacCarthy Island and the Ceded Mile were, up to the end of 1947, administered as part of the Protectorate, leaving only the Island of St. Mary, which includes the town of Bathurst, and Kombo St. Mary Division under their own systems of administration. Within this area the various functions of Government are mainly exercised directly by the department concerned, e.g., Police, Education, etc. A Commissioner of the Colony has been appointed with general supervisory responsibilities but without executive powers.

Local Government

Local Government in Bathurst is in the hands of the Bathurst Town Council, established under the Local Government (Bathurst) Ordinance, 1946, which consists of the Colony Commissioner as *ex-officio* chairman, four nominated members, and three elected members from each of the five wards. The Council has not yet taken over the full responsibilities provided for it in the Ordinance, and its activities extend chiefly to the lighting and cleaning of streets, the maintenance of buildings, markets and drains and the care of open spaces. Its revenue includes rates assessed on the annual value of premises, market dues, licences and duties on palm wine entering the town.

The Kombo Rural Authority was set up at the beginning of 1947 under the Kombo St. Mary Division Ordinance, 1946. The authority originally consisted of the Colony Commissioner, two nominated official members and a variable number, at present 21, of members nominated for the most part from the headmen of the villages of the district. Under the Kombo St. Mary Division (Amendment) Ordinance, 1951, however, the authority is to consist of the Chairman, four headmen, two members from the immigrant communities and such number of members from the towns and villages of the Division as the Governor may nominate. Provision is made for the eventual election of these members. The authority at present concerns itself chiefly with the maintenance of streets and markets, for which purpose it collects rates, market fees and trade licences.

The Protectorate Ordinance, 1935, consolidated and amended the law relating to the Protectorate. The appointment of a Senior Commissioner in October, 1943, was the prelude to a number of changes in the Protectorate Administration, which consists of four Divisions with a resident population of 225,358, administered by Commissioners. These are known as the Western, Central, MacCarthy Island and Upper River Divisions, with their Headquarters at Brikama, Mansa Konko, Georgetown and Basse.

Each Division consists of a number of Districts under a Head Chief whose appointment is approved by the Governor by Proclamation. There are 35 such Districts of various sizes, ranging from 305 to 8 square miles and with populations between 24,000 and 600 persons. These Districts may be divided into Sub-Districts under Sub-Chiefs but none are in existence at present.

Each District possesses a Native Authority and a Native Tribunal. The Native Authority is declared by the Governor for any specified area and may be any Chief or other native or any native Council of group of natives. The District Head was previously the Native Authority but a change was made in all the Districts during 1945 when the District Head became the President and the Village Heads, with their advisers-in-council, were appointed members of the Authority. The Native Authority has powers to make Orders and Rules to be obeyed by natives within the District and is expected to maintain order and good government in the area over which its authority extends. The Native Authority Ordinance, 1933, confers these powers.

There are now 35 District Tribunals, with the District Head as President and an average of six elders as members. Two Group Tribunals were constituted in 1946, serving the three Kombo and five Foni Districts of the Western Division, and a third was started in 1947, serving three Districts in the MacCarthy Island Division.

As the result of the passing of the Protectorate Treasuries Ordinance No. 13 of 1945, a number of Group or District Treasuries have been established, and in 1948 35 Districts with a total population of 225,000 were collecting nearly £50,000 per annum in local revenue. Although each District frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure, the majority of the Districts prefer to group for the purpose of a treasury, which is managed by a Finance Committee. The sources of revenue are moneys derived from the imposition of district rates, rents, tribunal fees, timber and miscellaneous fees and interest on deposits.

The expenses of administration, which include the payment of salaries to chiefs and staffs, are limited to half the revenue, if possible, so that the remainder can be used for local improvements and the creation of a reserve.

A further step has been taken by the institution of an annual conference of Protectorate Chiefs. The first of such conferences was held in 1944. Divisional conferences take place at frequent intervals. During 1947 four members were nominated to represent the Protectorate on the Legislative Council and two on the Executive Council.

Finally, fresh provision has been made for the tenure and management of lands in the Protectorate Lands Ordinance, 1945, whereby they are declared to be vested in the authorities of the districts in which they are situated and shall be held and administered for the use and common benefit of the communities concerned.

Relations with Adjacent Territories

The relationship between the Gambia and neighbouring territories is—so far as individuals and trade are concerned—very close indeed, and the territories' boundaries have little but political and geographical significance. There is a constant flow—both ways—of persons and goods across the frontiers. The trade relationship with the Senegal is strengthened by the fact that over one-third of the territory's trade is in the hands of French firms with their head offices or important branches in Dakar. Throughout the period when France was occupied by the Germans during the war these firms were permitted to continue business in the Gambia, though communication with their principals in French territory was cut off. Bathurst has also a close relationship with Freetown where many of its inhabitants have near relations or whence they originally came: there is a large trade in Sierra Leone produce, particularly kola nuts, and much of this is carried on by small traders.

Close relationship between all forms of development in the Gambian and other British West African Governments has in the past been maintained through the West African Council and its Secretariat. This Council was, however, formally dissolved in June, 1951, and liaison will in future be maintained through the West African Inter-Territorial Conference. This new body has also taken over the permanent Secretariat of the West African Council which will continue to discharge broadly the same duties.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

The following is a summary of the principal economic legislation in force:—

The Licences Ordinance, 1932, provides that certain trades may not be exercised in the Colony without a licence. *The Protectorate Licences Ordinance*, 1948, makes similar provision with regard to the Protectorate. *The Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board Ordinance*, 1948, transfers the control, which in the past was exercised by the West African Oil and Oilseeds Board in the United Kingdom, to a Marketing Board in the Gambia, of the marketing and export of oilseeds (especially groundnuts) in the interest of producers.

Digitized by Google

The Income Tax Ordinance, 1948, is in line with similar legislation in the other West African territories. The personal allowances and allowances for dependants are liberal and the rates of tax at 30th June, 1951, were as follows :—

Rates of Tax on Individuals

	£	s.	d.
On every pound of the first £200 of chargeable income	0	0	6
On every pound of the next £300 of chargeable income	0	1	0
On every pound of the next £400 of chargeable income	0	3	0
On every pound of the next £1,100 of chargeable income	0	5	0
On every pound of the next £3,000 chargeable income	0	10	0
On every pound of the next £5,000 of chargeable income	0	12	6
On every pound exceeding £10,000 of chargeable income	0	15	0

Rate of Tax on Companies

On every pound of chargeable income	0	10	3

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

Under the *Customs Tariff Ordinance of* 1932 a preferential tariff granting certain concessions on imports of United Kingdom origin was introduced. The chief items on which import duty is levied are wines, spirits, tobacco, piece goods and other textiles, machinery, motor cars and oils. Export duty is levied on groundnuts, the territory's main export, on groundnut oil and cake and on palm kernels.

The principal rates of duty in force at 30th June, 1951, were :—

IMPORT DUTIES

Goods	*Unit*	*British Preferential Tariff*	*General Tariff*
Beer and ale, stout and porter	per gall.	2s. 6d.	3s. 0d.
Kola-nuts	per lb.	6d.	9d.
Edible oils	per gall.	6d.	8d.
Whisky and Gin	per gall.	£3 10s. 0d.	£4 10s. 0d.
Other potable spirits	per gall.	15s. 0d.	15s. 0d.
Tobacco—Unmanufactured	per lb.	2s. 6d.	2s. 9d.
Cigarettes, not exceeding 2½ lbs. the 1,000	per 100	3s. 0d.	3s. 6d.
,, Exceeding 2½ lbs. the 1,000	per lb.	12s. 0d.	14s. 0d.
Tobacco manufactured—Other kinds	per lb.	12s. 0d.	14s. 0d.
Apparel, all kinds		12½% *ad valorem*	15% *ad valorem*
Rayon piece goods		10% or if higher 4½d.	12½% or if higher 5d.
Cotton yarn	per lb.	2d.	2½d.
Cotton piece goods—Bleached, plain weave and grey-cotton	per sq. yd.	¾d. or if higher 10%	1d. or if higher 12½%
Bleached fancy cotton weave	per sq. yd.	3d. or if higher 10%	4½d. or if higher 12½%
Printed, dyed and coloured cotton	per sq. yd.	4½d. or if higher 10%	5d. or if higher 12½%
Woollen piece goods	per sq. yd.	1s. 3d. or if higher 15%	1s. 6d. or if higher 20%
Other textiles		10%	12½%
Machinery, Air conditioning		9%	14%
other		9%	11%
Motor cars, motor lorries, motor cycles, side cars, bicycles and tricycles, other carriages and parts and accessories of all the above (including tyres and tubes)		5%	20%
Oil-illuminating, including benzine, benzolene	per gall.	4d.	4d.
Motor spirit, gasolene and naphtha	per gall.	8d.	8d.
Fuel oil for internal combustion engine	per gall.	4d.	6d.
Fuel oil for use in furnaces	per gall.	3d.	4d.
Lubricating Oil	per gall.	4d.	4d.
Oils—Other, including unperfumed essential and medicinal oils	per gall.	2s. 0d.	2s. 6d.
Soap, toilet, including shaving and medicated		33⅓%	40%
Soap, other kinds	per 100 lbs.	4s.	6s.
Other unspecified goods		12½%	15%

There is a long schedule of goods that are exempted from import duty, the most notable items in which are staple foods, building materials, and the produce (except kola nuts and tobacco) of other West African territories.

Export Duties—

Groundnuts :—			
(i) Undecorticated	per ton	15s.	—
(ii) Decorticated	per ton	£1 7s. 0d.	—
Palm kernels	per ton	15s.	—
Groundnut oil	per ton	£1 10s. 0d.	—
Groundnut cake	per ton	£1	—

Digitized by Google

Imports and exports are controlled. Open General Licences have been issued covering the import of all goods, other than certain scarce foodstuffs, from the Sterling Area and specified soft currency countries and produce of all kinds from British West Africa. Imports not covered by these licences require specific licences which are normally granted freely except where the expenditure of hard currencies is involved when the determining factor is the essentiality of the import to the territory's economy.

(iii) *Labour*

Except for the employment of young persons and women on night work, no legislation has been enacted which provides for the employment of labour, or for the setting up of Labour Exchange.

The employment of Ex-Servicemen Ordinance, 1945, provides for the making of an order that a certain quota of Ex-Servicemen should be employed varying from a general one of 15 per cent to between 60 per cent and 100 per cent for certain categories of workpeople.

A Wages Board Ordinance is being set up for the retail and distributive trade which will provide for minimum rates for all classes of workmen engaged therein.

The Minimum Wage Order No. 3 *of* 1949 provides for a minimum rate of 2s. 9d. per day of eight hours for all unskilled labourers, and 5d. an hour for hours worked beyond eight hours.

The Workmen Compensation Ordinance No. 18 *of* 1940 covers all workpeople whose earnings do not exceed five hundred pounds per annum.

The Trade Union Ordinance No. 29 *of* 1932 gives full protection to workpeople to establish their trade unions. There is no legislation which provides for conciliation in labour disputes; the Labour Officer carries out the duties usually performed by a conciliation officer.

The Labour Ordinance, 1944, provides for voluntary arbitration in the event of any labour dispute.

(iv) *Land Tenure*

The law relating to the tenure and management of lands in the Colony and Protectorate is contained in two ordinances enacted in 1945, the *Colony Lands Ordinance* and the *Protectorate Lands Ordinance*. The first is in effect a consolidating ordinance, and codifies the law as it has been for a long time.

There is a considerable amount of freehold land in the Colony; in addition there are a number of Crown leases, and the remainder of the land is occupied by the Crown. Generally, Crown leases are not granted for a greater period than 50 years in the first instance, and there is provision for revision of rent.

Prior to the enactment of the Protectorate Lands Ordinance, the Governor exercised over land in the Protectorate the same powers of disposition and management as he exercises over land in the Colony. The Protectorate Lands Ordinance, however, vests all Protectorate lands in the Native Authorities, to be held and administered for the common benefit, direct or indirect, of the communities concerned. The Ordinance makes strict provisions for the occupation of land by non-indigenes; no non-indigene may acquire a greater interest than a lease for 50 years in the first instance, and provision is made for rent revision. No Protectorate land may in any circumstances whatsoever be permanently alienated, not even to the Gambia Government. All revenues derived from lands in the Protectorate form part of the revenue of the Native Authorities concerned; all leases held from the Crown at the time of the coming into operation of the ordinance were automatically transferred to the appropriate Native Authorities as lessors.

(v) *Immigration*

Immigration restrictions are contained in the *Immigration Ordinance* 1946, with the Rules made thereunder, which states the position regarding prohibited immigrants and the conditions on which entry into the Gambia is permitted.

Communications and Transport

Railway

There are no railways in the territory.

Roads

There are 30 miles of tarmac road in the vicinity of Bathurst and approximately 600 miles of sandy tracks in the Protectorate, most of which are open to motor traffic during the dry season only.

A tarred road connects Bathurst with Cape St. Mary and Fajara on the coast (10 miles); there are branch roads from Kanefing to Brikama (16½ miles), and from Kanefing to Sukuta (3½ miles) and to Fajara. For the most part the remainder of the road system consists of secondary roads on each bank of the river to Basse with feeder roads to various wharf towns on the river. These secondary roads are usable only with difficulty during the rainy season. A gravelled road is maintained from Barra on the north bank opposite Bathurst to the French frontier post at Karrang and thence to Dakar. A new trans-Gambia road was recently completed from the French frontier north of Farrafeni to Ballingho and on the south bank from the new wharf at Yellitenda to the French frontier at Messera. Powered car ferries are in operation at Bathurst-Barra, Ballingho-Yellitenda and Kerewan.

The Development Plan provides for the construction of all-weather feeder roads to the river ports.

Harbours, Inland Waterways, Shipping

There is no bar to the Gambia river. Bathurst is a deep-water harbour, and anchorages off-shore vary from 9-14 fathoms. The harbour is comparatively sheltered except during tornadoes which are of short duration and occur infrequently between June and October. In the channel from the open sea to the harbour the least depth of water charted is 27 feet. Port facilities consist of a Government jetty and 11 jetties owned by commercial firms; none is suitable for berthing cargo vessels of over 2,000 tons without grounding, and they are used almost exclusively for the loading and discharge of lighters and river craft. Merchant tonnage entering the harbour in 1949 totalled 704,784 tons gross. A deep-water jetty is to be constructed at Bathurst at a cost of about £75,000. This will provide 280 feet of wharf accommodation suitable for vessels of a draught not exceeding 28 feet.

Internal communication is chiefly by river. The Gambia River is navigable for ocean-going ships (not exceeding 13 feet draught) for 180 miles, and by river vessels for 300 miles. Along the river there are altogether 58 wharf towns of varying size, offering limited facilities. The Government operates a service of river vessels which normally run weekly during the trading season and fortnightly or monthly at other times of the year.

Ocean services between the United Kingdom and the Gambia are maintained by Messrs. Elder, Dempster Lines, Limited, and the United Africa Company, Limited.

Aviation and Meteorological Services

There is an aerodrome at Yundum, 17 miles from Bathurst, and a marine airport at Bathurst; the latter is now rarely used.

The West African Air Corporation and Air France (the latter during the dry season) provide services which connect northwards at Dakar with the trunk routes between the United Kingdom, Europe and South America and southwards with Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Portuguese and French Guinea.

Telegraphic Services

There are four wireless stations operated by the Government in the Colony:—

	Call sign	*Frequency*
Bathurst	.. V.S.H.	3495, 2865 and 2525 Kcs.
Kuntaur	.. Z.C.A.	,, ,, ,, ,,
Georgetown	.. V.S.W.	,, ,, ,, ,,
Basse ..	.. V.S.X.	,, ,, ,, ,,

Digitized by Google

Postal Services

Apart from the General Post Office at Bathurst there are sub-offices, with wireless telegraph stations, at Kuntaur, Georgetown, Mansa Konko and Basse, and postal agencies at eight other places.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The country is considered unsuitable for European settlers and there are no plantations or estates, with the result that production is entirely in the hands of African peasant farmers. An important feature in the agricultural life of the territory is the seasonally immigrant or " strange " farmers who visit the Gambia for the purpose of growing groundnuts. During 1950, 11,000 " strange " farmers visited the Protectorate and contributed a considerable proportion of the crop. These men come from neighbouring colonies, such as the French Sudan and Guinea, and after raising and selling a crop of groundnuts they return to their homes. This movement is substantial and results from the better prices which can be obtained from produce in areas, unlike those from which the " strange " farmers come, where the cost of transport from the farms to the port of shipment is low. It is, in short, cheaper for the farmer to move himself than to pay for the transport of his produce from the remote hinterland. The relative abundance and cheaper price of consumer goods in this and neighbouring territories also influence the choice of the place in which groundnuts are to be grown. Considerable variations occur in the terms under which the immigrants work, but the general pattern is always the same. The landlord provides board, lodging and land, in return for which the " strange " farmer works a certain number of days for the landlord, the number of days so worked depending upon the custom of the district ; a cash payment is sometimes agreed upon as well.

Government measures to promote improved agricultural methods and conditions include :—

(i) Experiments in crop rotation and a balanced system of farming entailing the use of cattle both for ploughing and for manure.

(ii) Experiments in the cultivation of foodstuffs and groundnuts (partly by machinery) with a view to improving the nutritional status of a village community.

(iii) Irrigation works : the Government has under consideration various proposals for the better use of riparian lands by methods of irrigation.

(iv) The establishment of a statutory marketing authority for oilseeds and other produce. The surplus funds of the Marketing Board are to be invested in agricultural development.

(v) The encouragement of the co-operative movement.

Local Food Products

In former years the Gambian farmer, in concentrating on the groundnut crop has neglected food production, and as a result the Colony has not been self-supporting in this respect. Latterly, propaganda has stressed the desirability of being self-sufficient in food and certain Native Authorities have enacted rules requiring " strange " farmers to work part of the week on the production of food crops and not, as formerly, entirely on the export crop of groundnuts. New areas have been opened up in the riverine swamps for rice production, and an experimental rice farm conducted by the Agricultural Department has been started.

The Colonial Development Corporation is associated with the drive for increased food production and is undertaking schemes for growing rice and other foodstuffs largely by mechanical means.

Areas in cultivation under principal crops are estimated as follows :—

ACREAGE UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS

	Approximate acreage
Groundnuts	210,000
Guineacorn } Millet }	150,000
Rice	60,000
Maize	20,000
Digitaria (Findo)	15,000
Cassava	10,000
Cotton	5,000

Much has still to be done to ensure that the food grown is nutritionally sufficient in quantity and quality to effect improved production, earning capacity, and higher standards of living for the people.

The Gambia farmer remains very largely dependent for his cash income on groundnuts, of which the total purchases (unshelled) for the season 1949-50 were 61,533 tons. Exports vary considerably, depending on prices and on the number of " strange " farmers who migrate annually into the Gambia. Exports have been as follows in recent years :

EXPORTS OF GROUNDNUTS

Year	*Volume (in tons)*		*Value £*
	Undecorticated	*Decorticated*	
Average, 1930-34	64,000	—	531,000
" 1935-39	51,000	1,000	390,000
" 1940-44	21,000	7,000	230,000
1946	31,589	6,183	596,000
1947	49,387	4,858	1,066,000
1948	66,430	2,504	1,628,000
1949	61,106	—	1,571,000
1950	58,791	—	1,564,626

During the war years when the Anglo-French frontier was closed the numbers of " strange " farmers declined sharply ; in the years 1940-43 their total averaged only 4,302 annually. In 1950 they numbered nearly 11,000.

The crop is transported by donkey, lorries and river craft to buying points near the river, and is then either transported by small craft to Bathurst or loaded direct into ocean-going vessels at various places between Kuntaur, 150 miles from Bathurst, and the coast.

The quality of the crop is maintained by propaganda to encourage early planting and late harvesting, and by Native Authority Orders controlling the date and method of harvest. Produce inspection is carried out by the Agricultural Department at the buying centres, where all nuts have to be passed through rotary screens for cleaning purposes before purchase.

Palm kernels are also exported. The amount purchased in 1950 was 1,800 tons, compared with 1,300 tons in 1949 and a pre-war maximum of 871 tons in 1939. Exports of palm kernels in 1950 amounted to 1,580 tons valued at £44,937.

Hides and beeswax are also exported in small quantities, exports in 1950 being valued at £4,028 and £3,116 respectively.

The number of cattle is estimated at 96,000. Numbers have increased very rapidly over the last 15 years, largely as a result of the rinderpest inoculation system which the Veterinary Department has established and maintained for some years. Development plans provide for an expansion of the work of the Veterinary Department.

A small dairy industry has been initiated for the production of butter ; cream is obtained partly from the Agricultural Department centres which are placed at points accessible to nomadic herdsmen. In the rainy season, the amount of butter produced is almost sufficient for existing demands ; in the dry season, however, yields are not so good and fall short of present requirements.

Fisheries

Fisheries are still largely undeveloped. Small canoes are used for hand lining, while other methods used are

Digitized by Google

beach seining and cast-netting. Catches are sold mainly fresh but a little is sun-dried and smoked. With a view to development, a master fisherman has been appointed and a motor vessel obtained for fishing purposes.

Trial shipments to the United Kingdom of Fish Sounds (for the manufacture of Isinglass) have been made, and there is some indication that this trade could be developed.

Minerals

There are no known mineral resources in the Gambia.

Manufactures

Two mineral water factories have been established under African proprietorship. Two groundnut oil mills have been erected in Bathurst producing for local consumption only. A tomato purée plant has been established in Bathurst to meet local demands. Other industries, such as charcoal and lime burning, are of local importance only.

Village Industries

Pottery is produced in the Upper River Division but there is no exportable surplus. Also in the Upper River Division a very small crop of local cotton is woven for local use.

Other Economic Activities

Organization of Trade

The territory is unique among the British West African territories in regard to the almost complete lack of natural village markets for the sale and purchase of local produce and of petty trade goods. There is a large market in Bathurst and markets are to be found in the larger wharf towns where, like Bathurst, there is a small African wage-earning population which does not produce its own food.

All the principal importers have their own retail shops ; there are no firms acting simply as wholesalers. These importers also supply goods wholesale to African and Syrian (Lebanese) traders.

The export of groundnuts and palm kernels, which accounts for nearly 99 per cent of the total export trade by value, is in the hands of a statutory marketing authority.

The Gambia River is one of the finest waterways in West Africa. It affords a natural outlet for the vast hinterland of French Senegal, but its value in this respect has been restricted by artificial boundaries, customs barriers and the construction of the Dakar-Niger railway (which runs almost parallel to the river and in parts only some 30 miles from it).

The territory's internal economic activity is not of sufficient volume to support the maintenance of facilities for handling a large volume of extra-territorial traffic without the accrual of some related revenue. Nevertheless its existence as an economic unit depends in considerable measure on its success in attracting a proportion of some extra-territorial trade. The health of its economy has been very sensitive to factors governing economic relations with the neighbouring French territory of Senegal. When the French authorities have in the past had occasion to give financial support, by subsidy or by preference, to the production of groundnuts in Senegal, Gambian farmers (all of whom live within a few miles of a French trading centre) take their produce over the border with the result that the revenue of the Gambia suffers both directly from the loss of export duty and indirectly from the loss of import duty on goods purchased with the proceeds from the sale of the groundnuts, and brought back from French territory by the Gambian farmers across the long and difficult frontiers over which it is impossible to exercise adequate control. Such trends as this are rendered more serious by the dependence of the Gambian economy on groundnuts as virtually its sole export crop. It should not be overlooked, however, that other factors (such as the relative value of the franc and the pound sterling) have from time to time reversed the flow of trade and operated to the advantage of the Gambia.

The close co-operation initiated between the French and British overseas territories in 1940 and continued since 1945 holds out the hope that satisfactory arrangements can be agreed for the freeing of trade between the two territories, both on the basis of increased transit traffic (canalized and organized to make use of certain developed routes) and of a greater freedom in the less substantial but important internal traffic between the indigenous inhabitants of the two territories.

While it is clear that, if the Gambia river is to be a principal highway for the trade of the hinterland, there rests upon the territory an obligation to provide and maintain facilities in the river which are adequate to handle the volume of trade offering, it is equally manifest that the territory cannot be expected to support (in fact, its resources could not support) such facilities unless it derives a reasonable return from the trade which is handled. The territory is, therefore, entitled to expect that the trade of the hinterland contributes (e.g., through payment of dues and handling charges) to the expenditure on development of the river as a commercial highway of international significance.

Professions

In 1950 there were 7 doctors, 1 dentist, 7 nursing sisters, 1 architect and 3 lawyers—all holding recognized United Kingdom professional qualifications.

There are some 39 nurses and 118 teachers locally trained.

Co-operative Movement

The Department of Co-operation was not formed until the arrival of the first Registrar in December, 1948. Isolated attempts had been made earlier to organize the co-operative supply and even export of groundnuts but without enduring success. In 1946 a scheme in the Kantora District brought together 27 villages, rising to 39 villages in the following year. There was a communal growing of groundnuts for sale, and the proceeds were utilized for buying food during the hungry season. In 1946-47, £97 18s. was realized for this purpose ; and £277 2s. in 1947-48.

The general policy of Government is to promote co-operative forms of enterprise amongst sections of the community whose interests can best be served in that way.

Employment and Labour Supply

There are very few industrial undertakings in the Gambia, the main industry being the production of groundnuts for export. The majority of the people are farmers, many of whom migrate to Bathurst during the dry season for wage-earning employment.

The Government is the largest employer of labour and employs directly over 1,700 manual workers and 150 clerical staff. The former are engaged mainly by the Public Utilities Department and the Medical and Health Services. The United Africa Company employs between 500-700 workers, of whom 50 per cent are labourers.

In the Colony there is a minimum wage for unskilled labourers of 2s. 9d. for an eight-hour day, but a number of employers are paying rates up to 3s. per day. Artisans' rates vary between 4s. 6d. and 8s. per day, which compares favourably with the rates for daily-paid clerks. In the loading of groundnuts for export the labourers are paid 2d. per bag from the store to the ship. At this rate it is estimated that they can earn between 10s. and 15s. a day.

The average working week is approximately 46 hours, but there appears to be a good deal of absenteeism. There is no uniformity of practice as to the payment of overtime.

Fuel and Power

The largest power house is in Bathurst where the diesel-driven alternator generated 1,082,776 units in 1949, the peak load being 290 kW. There is a small power station at Yundum, with a standby at Lamin, for supply to the aerodrome and staff quarters. At Fajara Rest Camp a

Digitized by Google

small plant is in use to supplement the supply from Bathurst. The Government also undertakes small-scale supplies of electricity at Brikama, Georgetown and Bansang; generating sets at Basse and Kuntaur, however, are used for radio operation only. A scheme for a new and up-to-date supply of electricity to Bathurst and the Kombo has been approved.

Rates charged for electricity consumed are as follows: lighting rate of 9d. per unit; domestic rate of 1½d. per unit; power rate of 6d. per unit; or contract rate which is the subject of a special agreement. A standard minimum rate of 7s. 6d. per month is payable for lighting where not more than three lighting points are installed, or 10s. per month where more than three points are installed.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

The annual revenue of the Gambia increased gradually from an average of £50,729 during the period 1900-1904 to £225,067 during the period 1925-1929; thereafter there was a slight recession but the average increased again to £371,704 in 1940-1944 and has since risen to £866,900 in 1948. Estimated revenue for 1950 is £914,182, including £220,716 from Colonial Development and Welfare Grants.

The public debt at the 31st December, 1949, was £38,760 and the sinking fund £16,250. At the same date reserves held by Government were as follows:—

	£
General Reserve	568,048
General Revenue Balance	332,292
Interest Free Loan to H.M.G.	25,000
	£925,340

All commitments except the public debt are covered by liquid assets.

All residents in the territory contribute to public revenue through duties on imported goods which represent about 20 per cent of expenditure on them. In addition, Protectorate inhabitants pay a tax of 2s. 6d. on each hut occupied (minimum four huts) and 5s. for each lodger; strange farmers are taxed at the rate of 10s. a year. In Bathurst there is a general rate on annual value of property of 1s. 2d. to the £. Income tax is payable by single persons with incomes of over £200 and married persons with incomes of more than between £350 and £950 according to the size of the family at rates shown on page 4.

Revenue and Expenditure since 1938 has been as follows:—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE GAMBIA 1938-1950

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
	£	£
1938	166,794	263,199
1939	151,744	205,889
1940	203,753	198,633
1941	247,197	208,453
1942	407,753	295,311
1943	475,910	425,940
1944	523,908	526,023
1945	587,004	430,729
1946	616,328	532,659
1947	693,774	633,273
1948	866,900	1,014,098 (*a*)
1949	964,154	1,173,495 (*b*)
1950 (Revised Estimate)	998,000	957,000 (*c*)
1951 (Approved Estimate)	1,055,500	1,163,373 (*d*)

(*a*) Includes £256,000 transferred to reserve.
(*b*) Includes £74,047 transferred to reserve.
(*c*) Includes £6,000 transferred to reserve.
(*d*) Includes £6,000 transferred to reserve.

The following tables set out the characteristic pattern of revenue and expenditure for the years 1938, 1949 and 1951:—

EXPENDITURE OF THE GAMBIA 1938, 1949 AND 1951*

Head	1938		1949		1951	
	Amount	*% of Total Expenditure*	*Amount*	*% of Total Expenditure*	*Amount*	*% of Total Expenditure*
	£		£		£	
Administrative Services	58,289	22·1	136,236	11·6	141,341	12·1
Social Services	53,529	20·3	145,194	12·4	139,837	12·0
Public Order and Defence	20,831	7·9	39,497	3·4	56,720	4·9
Economic Services	6,758	2·6	39,330	3·3	79,825	6·9
Pensions and Gratuities	18,957	7·2	32,925	2·8	41,370	3·6
Public Works	97,000	36·9	598,865	51·0	644,335	55·4
Debt charges	2,093	·8	2,206	·2	2,320	·2
Miscellaneous	5,742	2·2	105,195	9·0	51,625	4·4
Total Ordinary Expenditure ..	263,199		1,099,448		1,157,373	
Reserve appropriation	—	—	74,047	6·3	6,000	·5
Total Expenditure	263,199	100·0	1,173,495	100·0	1,163,373	100·0

* Approved Estimate.

Digitized by Google

REVENUE OF THE GAMBIA, 1938, 1949 AND 1951 *

Head	1938		1949		1951	
	Amount	*% of Total Revenue*	*Amount*	*% of Total Revenue*	*Amount*	*% of Total Revenue*
	£		£		£	
Customs Duties	91,198	54·7	324,983	33·7	400,000	37·9
Port Dues	2,388	1·4	27,758	2·9	32,000	3·0
Taxes and Rates	16,589	9·9	187,848	19·5	170,000	16·1
Licences	7,937	4·8	8,123	·8	10,500	1·0
Fees	14,511	8·7	58,171	6·0	64,200	6·1
Posts and Telegraphs	10,439	6·3	42,440	4·4	14,000	1·3
Rents	3,756	2·2	7,709	·8	6,500	·6
Interest	11,949	7·2	20,314	2·1	20,000	1·9
Miscellaneous	3,127	1·9	56,819	5·9	46,700	4·4
Total Ordinary Revenue	161,894		734,165		763,900	
C.D. & W. grants	4,900	2·9	158,276	16·5	291,600	27·7
Transfer from Reserve	—		71,713	7·4	—	
Total Revenue	166,794	100·0	964,154	100·0	1,055,500	100·0

* Approved Estimate.

Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is West African currency, issued by the West African Currency Board in London on behalf of the British West African territories of Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia. The currency is interchangeable on demand with sterling in London at par (subject to remittance charges).

Currency in circulation, including banks' cash holdings at 31st December, 1949, was estimated at £1,594,150 which is thrice the amount of pre-war circulation. Of this circulation £768,318 was in notes of £1 and 10s. denominations. Circulation is always at its highest point in December and January, when large amounts are issued for the purchase of groundnuts. As a rule these issues of currency are quickly used for the purchase of goods and circulation falls in February and March, and remains low until the opening of the next trade season. Notes of the Banque d'Afrique Occidentale circulate freely in parts of the Protectorate, and British West African currency also circulates across the border in the Senegal and the Casamance.

The Bank of British West Africa is the only bank operating in the Gambia ; it has one office only situated in Bathurst. The principal trading firms make their own arrangements for remitting money to places in the Protectorate. The Government river steamer service carries money as freight, and small amounts can be transferred through the Post Office on board the steamer (money-order remittances) and through District Treasuries and Post Offices at Basse, Georgetown, Kuntaur, Kerewan and Brikama.

Savings Bank Deposits amounted to some £151,491 at the end of 1949 ; before the war, deposits amounted to less than £5,000. It is probable that amounts held in deposit in the Bank of British West Africa have also risen considerably. The total amount held by Government in the United Kingdom on its own account and on account of its depositors was, in 1949, £897,180 as compared with £284,000 in 1939.

Private Investment

There is no private investment of any importance except in the Government savings bank and in small trading businesses.

National Income

The data available for the calculation of the national income of the Gambia are inadequate for any correct assessment. Such information as exists, however, indicates that the national income of the territory in 1948 might have been of the order of £2½ to £3 million (of which at least half was derived from the groundnut trade), or between £10 and £12 per head of population.

Standard and Cost of Living

The standard of living in the Protectorate may be compared with that which is normally to be found among peasant farmers in West Africa generally, but is probably somewhat lower in some respects. As a result of concentration on the acquisition of a cash income from groundnuts, the standard of living may be regarded as relatively high in terms of manufactured goods (particularly textiles) but low in terms of food consumption. Concentration on groundnut production has led to shortages of local foodstuffs. In combination with the characteristic improvidence of the peasant farmer, this has resulted in the almost annual occurrence of a " hungry season " between the months of July and September (when the first supplies of locally grown maize become available). The cumulative result has been widespread malnutrition.

This does not apply in Bathurst, the inhabitants of which are for the most part wage-earners who can afford to buy imported foodstuffs. Here, however, there is a problem of overcrowding and insanitary conditions owing to the shortage of suitable land for building. The island on which the town is situated is in many parts below sea-level and is waterlogged in the rainy season. The establishment of a housing scheme in the Kombo area on the mainland has led to some improvement.

Digitized by Google

Balance of Trade

The following table summarizes the external trade of the Gambia during the period from 1935 :—

BALANCE OF TRADE 1935-1949

Year	*Total Imports*	*Re-exports*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*
	£	£	£	£	£
1935	483,287	16,622	466,665	376,102	— 90,563
1936	582,267	9,975	572,292	435,429	—136,863
1937	705,165	34,148	671,017	665,000	— 6,017
1938	277,440	33,250	244,190	255,701	11,511
1939	197,075	59,702	137,373	260,802	123,429
1940	278,369	6,419	271,950	300,879	28,929
1941	392,303	9,004	383,299	281,083	—102,216
1942	785,619	11,421	774,198	121,843	—652,355
1943	1,062,111	27,358	1,034,753	164,256	—870,497
1944	867,894	20,979	846,915	337,014	—509,901
1945	1,006,341	45,868	960,473	665,087	—295,386
1946	941,207	64,969	876,238	627,316	—248,922
1947	1,653,390	56,924	1,596,466	1,106,370	—490,096
1948	1,938,124	45,214	1,892,910	1,682,305	—210,605
1949	2,185,580	125,337	2,060,243	1,628,178	—432,065

Notes :

(1) The table above is based on the annual reports on the trade and shipping of the colony for 1949 and previous years.

(2) The figures are expressed exclusive of imports and re-exports of specie and currency notes. No imports or exports of gold or silver bullion were recorded during the years covered by the table.

(3) Imports and re-exports of N.A.A.F.I. stores are excluded from the table. For the period in question these are :

	Imports	*Re-exports*
	£	£
1941	36,000	—
1942	109,620	—
1943	179,728	14,000
1944	184,824	20,000
1945	35,294	66,000
1946	6,886	13,907

(4) Imports are valued c.i.f., and exports f.o.b.

The decade ending 1947 is characterized by adverse trade balances which increase annually, reaching their peak in 1943 after which the trend is reversed. This was due in part to the introduction, into what was mainly an agricultural subsistence economy, of the armed forces, whose large-scale employment attracted labourers from agricultural production to more remunerative employ in Bathurst and surroundings, thus effecting a decrease in groundnut production for export which, combined with the enhanced price of imported consumer goods, led to a large adverse trade balance.

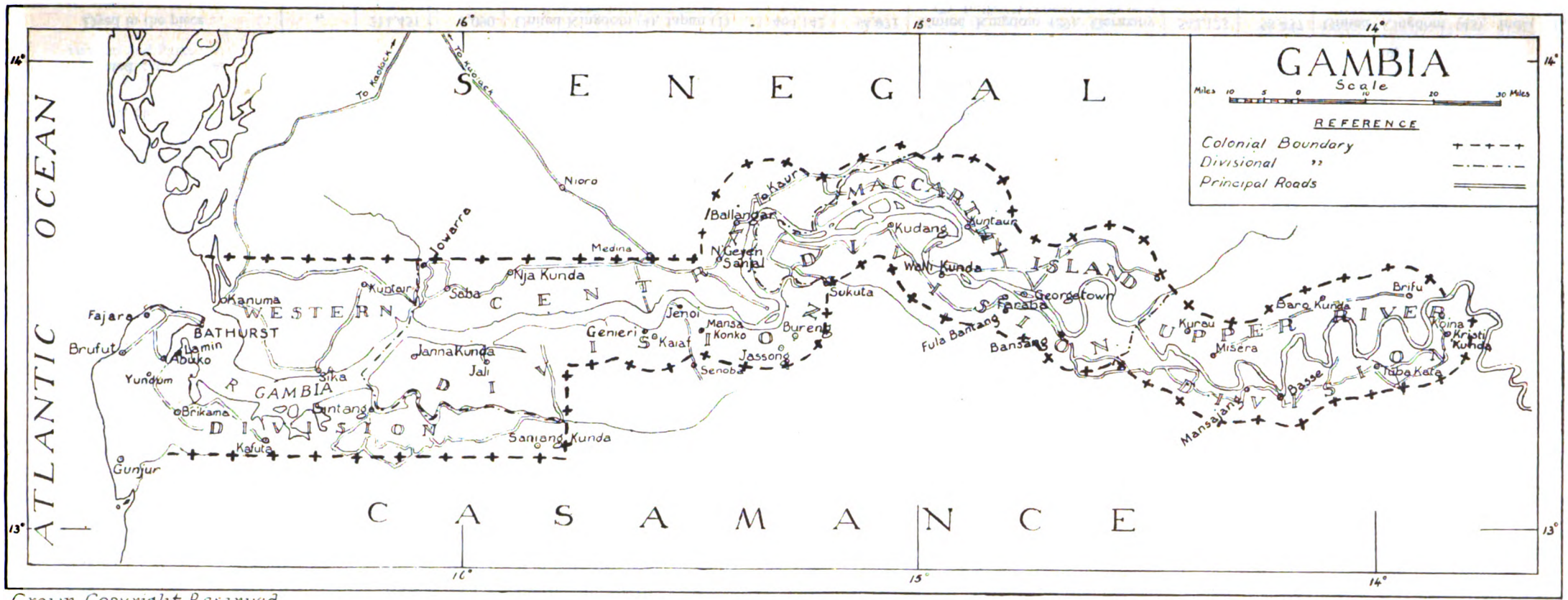
It has been estimated* that during the busiest pre-war season not more than 7,000 workers were employed industrially in Bathurst and environs, of which 80 per cent were unskilled ; immigrant labourers accounted for as much as half the labour force. During 1942, when immigration had practically ceased, it was estimated that the Services and other employers had as many as 20,000 paid employees and that their average wage bill was in excess of £5,000 per week. The effect of this increase in paid employment is clearly reflected in groundnut production, which fell from 48,000 tons in 1938 (70,000 tons in 1934) to 18,000 tons in 1942. Exports of groundnuts in the same years were 47,000 tons and 16,000 tons respectively. Increases in the unit cost of imported goods coincided with the decreased groundnut exports.

The result has been that the balance of trade, which was favourable in pre-war years, became adverse, and although the balance has been reduced as, consequent upon the withdrawal of the Services, more and more employees have returned to their former occupation of groundnut production, the physical balance is still adverse.

The following tables (pages 12 and 13) show the principal imports and exports, by main sources and destinations, for the years 1938, 1948 and 1949 :—

* Labour Report, 1942.

Digitized by Google



Crown Copyright Reserved

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS (C.I.F.) OF THE GAMBIA, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of origin with values in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of origin with values in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of origin with values in £000s*
Class I										
Wheat Flour	tons	391	5,254	United Kingdom (2), Canada, (1) France (1).	442	23,475	U.S.A. (19), Canada (5)	765	34,221	U.S.A. (all).
Rice	,,	1,523	13,478	Burma (10), Sierra Leone (3), Portuguese Guinea (1).	1,872	101,009	Brazil (84), Portuguese Guinea (11), Sierra Leone (5).	784	40,579	French Indo-China (36), Sierra Leone (4).
Kola Nuts	,,	580	21,988	Sierra Leone (all)	1,631	159,428	Sierra Leone (all)	1,053	113,562	Sierra Leone (113).
Sugar	,,	528	6,977	France (3), United Kingdom (3), Belgium (1).	974	50,837	United Kingdom (all)	1,024	50,133	United Kingdom (48).
Edible Oils	gallons	75,043	7,585	United Kingdom (3), Sierra Leone (2), Netherlands (1), French West Africa (1).	70,897	19,842	Sierra Leone (17), French West Africa (3).	180,428	57,722	Sierra Leone (57).
Wines	,,	20,848	2,492	France (1), Spain (1)	7,207	4,230	Portugal (3), France (1)	14,400	8,952	France (3), Morocco (2), Algeria (2).
Spirits	,,	2,529	2,538	United Kingdom (all)	2,225	3,428	United Kingdom (all)	2,895	4,511	United Kingdom (4).
Unmanufactured Tobacco	tons	40	3,872	Canada (3)	91	25,794	Nyasaland (all)	122	49,642	Nyasaland (41), U.S.A. (8).
Cigarettes	,,	13	6,315	United Kingdom (all)	22	21,440	United Kingdom (all)	30	31,348	United Kingdom (31).
Other Manufactured Tobacco	,,				—	208		—	316	
Class II										
Timber, Unmanufactured	sup. ft.	219,607	5,217	United Kingdom (4), U.S.A. (1)	15,747†	10,496	Nigeria (10)	23,819†	13,124	Nigeria (9).
Class III										
Footwear	pairs	26,369	3,090	Czechoslovakia (2), Morocco (1)	40,909	16,970	United Kingdom (12), Hong Kong (2), South Africa (1), Czechoslovakia (1), Morocco (1).	62,209	17,035	United Kingdom (10), Japan (3), Czechoslovakia (1), Hong Kong (1).
Headgear	numbers	*	1,711	United Kingdom (1)	65,765	14,950	United Kingdom (9), France (2), Czechoslovakia (2), Belgium (1)	55,334	13,231	United Kingdom (8), France (2), Czechoslovakia (2).
Shirts	,,	9,414	1,129	United Kingdom (1)	26,361	7,484	United Kingdom (5), Hong Kong (1), Germany (1).	147,267	7,388	Japan (4), United Kingdom (3).
Singlets, Vests, etc.	,,	25,543	751	—	204,183	26,759	United Kingdom (21), Hong Kong (2), Czechoslovakia (1), Spain(1).	130,401	13,304	United Kingdom (7), Japan (6).
Cotton Piece Goods :										
Grey, unbleached	sq. yds.	140,621	1,554	United Kingdom (1)	473,345	32,221	Japan (10), Germany (7), India (6), United Kingdom (4), France (3), U.S.A. (2).	567,361	32,884	Japan (19), United Kingdom (6), U.S.A. (6).
White, bleached	,,	157,348	2,850	United Kingdom (2)	1,167,333	109,961	United Kingdom (52), U.S.A. (19), Germany (13), Japan (13), Mexico (6).	1,258,979	100,851	United Kingdom (72), Japan (19), Italy (6).
Printed	,,	366,683	9,571	United Kingdom (5), Hungary (2), Czechoslovakia (1).	2,002,472	199,347	United Kingdom (161), Germany (12), France (9), Czechoslovakia (6), Netherlands (4).	1,946,790	184,695	United Kingdom (169), France (9), Germany (5).
Dyed in the piece	,,	211,451	5,090	United Kingdom (4), Japan (1)	464,142	54,972	United Kingdom (29), Germany (7), India (5), Japan (3), France (3), Belgium (2).	542,123	58,437	United Kingdom (43), India (9), Italy (3).
Coloured	,,	132,442	4,396	United Kingdom (2)	663,727	94,515	France (28), United Kingdom (27), India (20), Germany (10), Netherlands (5).	303,615	38,531	United Kingdom (24), India (8), Germany (5).
Art. Silk Piece Goods	,,	34,803	982	—	110,545	21,495	United Kingdom (all)	66,675	9,628	United Kingdom (8), Japan (1).
Jute Bags and Sacks	numbers	77,885	2,094	India (2)	168,535	20,565	India (19), United Kingdom (2)	282,530	41,484	India (37), United Kingdom (4).
Electrical Apparatus	*	*	3,440	United Kingdom (all)	*	20,960	United Kingdom (all)	*	33,223	United Kingdom (33).
Implements and Tools	tons	*	*	—	*	13,657	United Kingdom (9), France (3), U.S.A. (1).	*	15,931	United Kingdom (10), France (4).

Digitized by Google

Machinery :											
Agricultural	*	*	7,228	United Kingdom (6), U.S.A. (1) ..		30,477	United Kingdom (all)		83,837	U.S.A. (48), United Kingdom (26), Italy (10).
Electrical	*	*				1,180	United Kingdom (all)		12,783	United Kingdom (7), U.S.A. (5).
Industrial	*	*				8,363	United Kingdom (all)		22,495	United Kingdom (20), France (2).
Marine	*	*				5,357	United Kingdom (5)		9,635	United Kingdom (9).
Other	*	*				16,692	United Kingdom (all)		19,318	United Kingdom (19).
Iron and Steel Manufactures :										
Buckets, Pails and Basins ..	*	*	22,125	United Kingdom (18), Germany (1), Belgium (1), France (1).		7,886	United Kingdom (all)		7,942	United Kingdom (5), Japan (2).
Building and Mining Materials	*	*				17,225	United Kingdom (15), Canada (1), Belgium (1).		46,050	United Kingdom (43), Japan (1).
Other	*	*				39,683	United Kingdom (30), Poland (3), U.S.A. (2), Belgium (2).		63,636	United Kingdom (47), S. Africa (5), Poland (3).
Vehicles and Parts :										
Commercial Vehicles ..	numbers	33	4,210	United Kingdom (2), Canada (1), France (1).	100	55,944	United Kingdom (52), U.S.A. (4)	70	44,834	United Kingdom (all).
Chassis with Engine ..	,,				62	27,843	United Kingdom (26), Canada (2)	47	22,693	United Kingdom (all).
Motor cars	,,				96	35,122	United Kingdom (31), France (2), U.S.A. (2), Canada (1).	86	34,727	United Kingdom (33), U.S.A. (1).
Tractors	,,	*	*	—	3	3,318	United Kingdom (all)	5	2,092	United Kingdom (all).
Cycles and Tricycles ..	,,	101	404	United Kingdom (all)	728	6,869	United Kingdom (all)	1,160	10,067	United Kingdom (10).
Tyres and Tubes :										
Outer Covers	,,	*	685	United Kingdom (all)	2,786	7,962	United Kingdom (all)	1,324	7,428	United Kingdom (all).
Inner Tubes	,,	*	158	United Kingdom (all)	4,284	1,635	United Kingdom (all)	2,767	1,301	United Kingdom (1).
Cement	tons	1,277	3,410	United Kingdom (all)	3,196	22,863	United Kingdom (all)	9,387	43,755	United Kingdom (41), Belgium (2).
Medicines and Drugs ..	*	*	3,433	United Kingdom (all)	*	22,835	United Kingdom (all)	*	27,701	United Kingdom (27).
Petrol and Oils :										
Fuel Oils	gallons	72,713	2,553	United Kingdom (2)	361,793	30,167	U.S.A. (14), British West Indies (11), Netherlands West Indies (5).	409,331	15,126	Netherlands West Indies (9), British West Indies (6).
Lubricating Oil	,,	13,516	1,498	U.S.A. (1)	39,429	9,526	U.S.A. (5), United Kingdom (4) ..	68,350	13,527	U.S.A. (8), United Kingdom (5).
Illuminating Oil	,,	40,877	1,876	U.S.A. (1)	127,364	15,936	U.S.A. (11), Netherlands West Indies (5).	102,567	11,857	U.S.A. (7), Netherlands West Indies (5).
Motor Spirit	,,	136,314	6,958	U.S.A. (3), Netherlands West Indies (1), British West Indies (1), Netherlands East Indies (1)	369,838	43,057	Netherlands West Indies (all) ..	387,348	24,563	Netherlands West Indies (13), U.S.A. (11).
Soap	tons	132	3,180	United Kingdom (all)	347	24,738	Nigeria (14), United Kingdom (10)	464	45,100	United Kingdom (43).

* Not available. † Cubic feet.

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS (F.O.B.) OF THE GAMBIA, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of Destination with values in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of Destination with values in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal Countries of Destination with values in £000s*
Class II										
Groundnuts :										
Undecorticated	tons	46,204	240,872	Belgium (61), United Kingdom (55), Denmark (48), Netherlands (43), France (26).	66,430	1,529,220	United Kingdom (all)	61,106	1,571,134	United Kingdom (all).
Decorticated	,,	777	5,819	United Kingdom (all)	2,504	98,781	United Kingdom (all)	—	—	
Palm Kernels	,,	681	4,535	United Kingdom (4)	1,241	30,221	United Kingdom (all)	1,551	38,466	United Kingdom (all).
Beeswax	,,	22	1,845	United Kingdom (all)	10	2,105	United Kingdom (all)	14	2,894	United Kingdom (all).
Hides and Skins	,,	47	1,960	France (1), United Kingdom (1) ..	8	777	United Kingdom (all)	29	3,277	United Kingdom (all).

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the countries to and from which exports and imports were consigned. Since 1932 there has been a preferential tariff and at the beginning of the war import and export licensing was aimed at directing trade as much as possible to the British Empire. Since the war import licenses have been freely issued to soft currency areas and only essentials that cannot be obtained elsewhere are admitted from hard currency sources. Export trade since the war has been almost exclusively with the United Kingdom and territories in West Africa.

TOTAL EXPORTS* (BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION), 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Destination	1938		1948		1949	
	Value (£)	%	*Value* (£)	%	*Value* (£)	%
United Kingdom	70,309	24·33	1,679,814	97·24	1,644,765	93·80
Other Commonwealth :						
British West Indies	—	—	—	—	75	
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	
Gold Coast	784	0·27	4,810	0·28	29,459	1·68
Hong Kong	—	—	—	—	—	
India	—	—	—	—	—	
Nigeria	454	0·16	2,887	0·17	5,417	·31
Nyasaland	—	—	—	—	—	
Sierra Leone	5,330	1·85	20,630	1·19	4,164	·24
Union of South Africa	—	—	—	—	—	
Other	15	—	—	—	100	
	6,583	2·28	28,327	1·64	1,683,980	2·23
Foreign Countries :						
Belgium	61,452	21·27	—	—	—	
Brazil	1,345	0·47	—	—	—	
China	—	—	—	—	—	
Czechoslovakia	—	—	—	—	—	
Denmark	47,967	16·60	350	0·02	90	
France	27,769	9·61	98	—	1,100	·07
French West Africa	5,212	1·80	8,986	0·52	67,214	3·84
Germany	5,698	1·97	—	—	—	
Italy	—	—	—	—	10	
Japan	—	—	—	—	—	
Netherlands	43,797	15·16	—	—	—	
Netherlands West Indies	—	—	—	—	—	
Portuguese Guinea	—	—	3,915	0·23	365	·02
United States of America	—	—	—	—	—	
Other	6,967	2·41	1,204	0·07	756	·04
	200,207	69·29	14,553	0·84	69,535	3·97
Ships' Stores	11,852	4·10	4,825	0·28	—	
GRAND TOTAL	288,951	100·00	1,727,519	100·00	1,753,515	100·00

* i.e., Exports and re-exports.

TOTAL IMPORTS (BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN), 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Source	1938		1948		1949	
	Value (£)	%	*Value* (£)	%	*Value* (£)	%
United Kingdom	126,990	45·77	1,004,162	51·81	1,339,057	61·27
Other Commonwealth :						
British West Indies	1,768	0·64	11,092	0·57	23	—
Canada	5,974	2·15	10,361	0·53	3,566	·17
Gold Coast	13	—	79	—	8,785	·40
Hong Kong	1,358	0·49	9,163	0·47	3,778	·17
India	3,346	1·21	56,481	2·91	76,336	3·49
Nigeria	595	0·21	36,288	1·87	15,512	·71
Nyasaland	309	0·11	25,788	1·33	41,135	1·88
Sierra Leone	28,754	10·36	189,368	9·79	165,848	7·59
Union of South Africa	424	0·15	19,625	1·01	8,061	·37
Other	11,253	4·06	5,814	0·30	9,170	·42
	53,794	19·39	364,059	18·78	332,214	15·20
Foreign Countries						
Belgium	4,342	1·57	13,565	0·70	12,532	·57
Brazil	52	—	84,476	4·36	—	—
China	632	0·23	36,770	1·90	844	·04
Czechoslovakia	3,866	1·39	16,977	0·88	7,632	·35
Denmark	1,054	0·38	1,097	0·06	1,272	·06
France	15,064	5·43	65,785	3·39	47,815	2·19
French West Africa	2,058	0·74	6,619	0·34	41,166	1·88
Germany	34,204	12·33	50,432	2·60	11,671	·53
Italy	4,679	1·69	28,420	1·47	39,310	1·80
Japan	4,022	1·45	26,550	1·37	46,215	2·12
Netherlands	3,277	1·18	56,900	2·94	48,870	2·24
Netherlands West Indies	1,591	0·58	53,895	2·78	32,183	1·47
Portuguese Guinea	657	0·24	11,811	0·61	234	·01
United States of America	9,699	3·50	86,462	4·46	152,193	6·96
Other	11,459	4·13	30,144	1·55	72,372	3·31
	96,656	34·84	569,903	29·41	514,309	23·53
Ships' Stores	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	277,440	100·00	1,938,124	100·00	2,185,580	100·00

Digitized by Google

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Activities and Plans

It will have been noted from the section on Public Finance that development of the Gambia will be largely dependent upon external grants as revenue surpluses are small. For this reason expenditure on development will have to be carefully made lest the recurrent charges arising from development schemes are such that the economy cannot bear them.

Under the Development and Welfare Act of 1945 £800,000 were provided for general development and £500,000 for Bathurst-Kombo development over the 10-year period ending 1955. The £800,000 for general development were allocated to the following development projects and approved by the Secretary of State ; contributions to development from general revenue and other sources were approved as follows :—

FINANCE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE GAMBIA

Type of scheme	*C.D. & W. funds*	*Local funds*	*Loan*	*Total*
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Agriculture	175	—	—	175
Veterinary	90	—	—	90
Education	162	84	—	246
Health	264	6	—	270
Industry	45	—	—	45
Communications	—	90	—	90
General Reserve	50	—	—	50
Provision for completion of schemes under 1940 Act	14	—	—	14
Bathurst-Kombo Scheme	500	250	250	1,000
Total	1,300	430	250	1,980

By the end of 1948 about £425,000 had been spent on development under the Plan of which £204,000 was from local funds.

Of the £175,000 allocated for agricultural development £118,850 has been allotted to the development of a rice farm at Jenoi ; the training of a regular flow of locally recruited staff to deal with the increased agricultural work envisaged : the undertaking of irrigation projects ; the improvement of poultry and stock and the introduction of certain small-scale experiments in mechanical cultivation. Among the latter is a scheme for the mechanical production of groundnuts and coos.

A joint Veterinary Department for Sierra Leone and the Gambia has been established, the Gambia's contribution to the cost of the Department being £45,000. This scheme lapsed at the end of 1948 and a separate Veterinary Department was established in the Gambia in 1949 with the aid of C.D. and W. funds. A considerable increase in inoculation against rinderpest has been achieved and inoculation against bovine pleuro-pneumonia commenced ; a new veterinary station has been opened at Kaur.

From the C.D. and W. allocation of £162,000 for educational development provision is made for financial assistance to infant and primary schools in Bathurst formerly managed by the Missions but now managed as Government Schools through their respective management committees and for the payment of the salary of the Education Officer for the Protectorate who will be the Principal of Armitage School at Georgetown and supervise the work of village schools which are being established by local authorities. For this purpose a grant of £78,200 has been allotted up to 1950. Thereafter it is planned to reduce the grant for the period 1950-55 to £45,000 the balance of the cost being found from local revenue ; at the end of 1955 the whole cost will become a charge against local funds. The balance of the £162,000 is to be used for the erection of new buildings for Armitage School.

The development plan for the medical and health services provides for the rebuilding of the Victoria Hospital at Bathurst, the erection of health centres at Brikama and Mansa-Konko, headquarters of Western and Central Divisions respectively and at Kuntaur the important groundnut centre, an increase in the number of dispensaries in the Protectorate and training of staff. In addition to the Development and Welfare funds an increasing contribution from revenue from £50,800 in 1948 to £67,200 in 1954 is anticipated.

The allocation of £45,000 from Development and Welfare funds for the encouragement of Minor industries is divided into :—

(*a*) £21,000 for the five years to end 1951 to provide for all expenditure of the Department of Supplies and Minor Industries except expenditure on assistance in the development of private enterprise as distinct from demonstrations and experiments.

(*b*) £24,000 for conducting experiments and demonstrating projects which might develop into minor industries and to provide for expenditure of the Department for the period 1952-1955 inclusive.

Among projects which have received assistance from the Department of Supplies and Minor Industries have been a fishing project which has been granted a loan for the purchase of small general purpose fishing craft. If the experiment is successful it may lead to the establishment of a powered fishing fleet which may meet domestic demand and eventually make exports of fish to neighbouring countries possible ; the formation of a Syndicate for the manufacture of bricks and tiles, and the establishment of a tomato-purée factory under the control of the Department which makes it possible to use the glut of tomatoes which reach the market in certain seasons owing to the extension of dry-season gardening.

Other existing industries which may prove capable of development are the soap industry at present mainly a village industry though there is one factory with a monthly production of 3,500 lb., the edible oil industry centred at Jowarra in North Bank Province, and the local weaving industries.

In addition to the £800,000 for general development an amount of £500,000 is being provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for the development of Bathurst. From this amount provision has been made for the storm water and street drainage estimated to cost about £120,000 ; this undertaking should be completed in 1951 ; work has also commenced on the Kotu drainage scheme in the Kombo. A scheme for increasing the water supply of Bathurst and the surrounding villages is under preparation and might cost £150,000 ; the drainage of the whole island of St. Mary and the swamps to the south of the Bathurst—Lamin road which would provide ample building sites in the neighbourhood of Bathurst and reduce the breeding grounds of mosquitoes is in operation and £150,000 has been earmarked for this project. Smaller

Digitized by Google

schemes in view are the provision of static tank latrines and the distribution of electrical energy from the airport generating plants at Yundum and Lamin to surrounding villages.

In addition to development schemes outlined above, the Nutrition Field Working Party of the Colonial Medical Research Council has been conducting an experiment in Genieri. The activities of the Working Party include medical, agricultural and sociological work together with a scheme for mass literacy. The Colonial Medical Research Council has established a Nutrition Field Research Station at Fajara. Both these schemes seem likely to afford a substantial contribution to the health and welfare of the Gambia.

In view of the increase in costs which has taken place since the original Development Plan was drawn up, and the fact that additional funds are available from the Gambia Oilseeds Marketing Board, a review of the Development Plan is being undertaken.

Other Development

The only important developments other than those included in the Government's development plan are those being undertaken by the Colonial Development Corporation. These consist of schemes for growing rice and other foods on riparian lands at Walli Kunda and Kudang in the Protectorate.

Digitized by Google

B. THE GOLD COAST

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographic and Climatic Features

The Gold Coast is situated on the Gulf of Guinea, and extends from 3° 15′ W. longitude to 1° 12′ E. longitude, and from 4° 45′ N. latitude to 11° 10′ N. latitude. It is bounded on the west by French territories of the Ivory Coast and the Haute Volta, on the north by the Haute Volta, on the east by Togoland under French Trusteeship and on the south faces the Gulf of Guinea.

The Gold Coast is composed of three territorial divisions, the Colony, Ashanti, and the Northern Territories. Along most of the eastern frontier runs the territory of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship which is administered as part of the Colony, and the Northern Territories. Unless the context indicates otherwise, the terms " Gold Coast " " Colony " and " Northern Territories," as used in this survey, include British Togoland.

The total area is approximately 91,843 square miles, made up as follows :—

	Square miles
Gold Coast Colony	23,937
Ashanti	24,379
Northern Territories	30,486
Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship	13,041
Total ..	91,843

There are four fairly distinct climatic regions : the coastal belt, the extreme south-west corner, the forest belt, and the north. In the coastal belt the annual rainfall, by equatorial standards, is very low, and it is usual for three-quarters of it to occur in the period from March to July, although there is a secondary maximum in October. This region is also notable for the relatively cool weather during the period from June to September, when, judged from readings taken in Accra, the average maximum temperature is only 82°-85° F. and the average minimum 71°-75° F. It is probably unique among coastal equatorial regions for its low rainfall and cool weather.

Towards the extreme south-west corner, the amount of rainfall increases rapidly and the climatic conditions are more typical of the latitude. There are two marked rainy seasons, with the principal maximum from May to June, and a secondary maximum from October to November. Temperatures are more uniform than in the coastal belt, although the weather is a little cooler during the period from June to September than it is for the rest of the year.

In the forest belt there is a relatively dry spell from December to February, and again in August, but over the rest of the year the rainfall is fairly uniform, although there are definite maxima in May and June, and again in September and October. Temperatures are slightly higher than in the south-west corner but follow the same annual pattern, with a relatively cool period from July to September.

In the northern regions during most of the year the average maxima are over 90° F., and during February and March the average maxima are respectively 100·3° F. and 101° F. There is a small drop in temperature from July to September, which coincides with the middle of the rainy season. Except when the harmattan, a dry, dusty, north-east wind, blows from the Sahara, reaching the Gold Coast in January and February, the relative humidity is generally high, usually about 80 per cent on the average.

The country may be generally described as being divided into plains and scrubland, forest areas and open parkland. The plain and scrub area lies between the coastline and the southern boundary of the forest, which leaves the coast in the neighbourhood of Takoradi and runs towards north-east to a depth of some 60 miles inland on the eastern frontier. It consists of rolling plains covered with scrub and grass, usually denuded of big trees, and with occasional isolated hills rising to a height of several hundred feet, particularly in the region of Cape Coast, between Apam and Winneba, and the south of Akuse.

The northern boundary of the forest area follows the Volta River to the region of the Afram River, and from there roughly west-north-west to the western boundary of the country. The forest area is broken by numerous steep ridges and hills and the heavy annual rains and the dense cover of forest make it the most productive area of the country. The forest in its natural state consists of massive trees, standing close to one another with widespread buttresses, and rising to a height of about 200 feet, and protects the soil from desiccation and erosion.

The country to the north of the forest zone may be described as open parkland. Certain areas of treeless plains and plateaux exist, but, generally speaking, the country is covered with low, open woodland throughout the whole of northern Ashanti and the Northern Territories. The rivers and streams are, for the most part, bordered by dense belts of trees and scrub, while between them the forest opens out into plains, glades, orchards and park-like areas.

The whole of the forest area is well watered by small rivers and streams, most of which dry up during the dry season, but flow strongly during the rains from May to October. The open parkland streams flow only for short periods during and for a few hours after falls of rain.

The Gold Coast has few mountains or highlands. About half the area of the country is below the 500 feet contour and the greater part of the remainder is less than 1,000 feet above sea level.

Population

The following table shows regional distribution of the African population by sex for the years 1921, 1931 and 1948 ; density of population per square mile in each region is also shown. Population density in the various districts comprising the regions varies greatly : in the Colony for example, the range (1948) was from 287 per square mile in the Akwapim-New Juaben district to 24 in Sefwi : in Ashanti, from 71 per square mile in Bekwi to 20 in Wenchi/Sunyani and in Northern Territories from 83 per square mile in Mamprusi to 6 in Gonja.

Digitized by Google

AFRICAN POPULATION OF THE GOLD COAST 1921, 1931, AND 1948

Region	Area Sq. Miles	Males	Females	Total African Pop.	F. to 100 M.	Density per Sq. Mile
The Colony*	26,401					
1921		632,828	625,483	1,258,311	98·8	47·7
1931		868,837	828,054	1,696,891	95·3	64·3
1948		1,126,759	1,090,657	2,217,416	96·8	84·0
Ashanti	24,379					
1921		202,228	198,333	400,561	98·1	16·4
1931		298,341	279,737	578,078	93·8	23·7
1948		416,295	401,487	817,782	96·4	33·5
Northern Territories* ..	41,063					
1921		319,822	300,383	620,205	93·2	15·1
1931		448,421	436,996	885,417	97·5	21·6
1948		535,661	540,821	1,076,482	101·0	26·2
The Gold Coast .. (including Togoland)	91,843					
1921		1,154,878	1,124,199	2,279,077	97·3	24·8
1931		1,615,599	1,544,787	3,160,386	101·8	34·4
1948		2,078,715	2,032,965	4,111,680	97·8	44·7

Notes :
* Including Togoland administered as part of the Colony and Northern Territories.

The figures for 1921 omit the following :
(*a*) Population (757) of 9 villages of the Colony omitted in the Census.
(*b*) 5,632 persons in Ashanti whose sex was not specified.
(*c*) Population (10,931) of Western Gonja in Northern Territories whose sex was not specified.

The African population in 1948 by sex and age group comprised the following :—

	Colony	Ashanti	Northern Territories	Total
Males—				
Under 1 year ..	91,278	30,833	44,503	166,614
1–16 years	390,629	154,446	194,321	739,396
16–45 years	476,465	179,057	227,862	883,384
45 years and over ..	168,387	51,959	68,975	289,321
Total Males	1,126,759	416,295	535,661	2,078,715
Females—				
Under 1 year ..	93,845	32,070	45,097	171,012
1–16 years	379,399	146,142	166,561	692,102
16–45 years	461,742	174,558	256,888	893,188
45 years and over ..	155,671	48,717	72,275	276,663
Total Females	1,090,657	401,487	540,821	2,032,965
Total Population ..	2,217,416	817,782	1,076,482	4,111,680

The total number of non-Africans in 1948 was 6,770, compared with 3,182 in 1931, and 2,033 in 1921. Of these, 5,394 were in the Colony, 1,162 in Ashanti, and 214 in the Northern Territories. No details were available to show the occupations of non-Africans in the Gold Coast, but the most numerous groups were civil servants, mercantile agents, retail traders and storekeepers, contractors, mining engineers and others employed in the mining industry, and missionaries.

Little information is available regarding internal and external population movements. It is known that numbers of men from the Northern Territories and from French territory move down to the mining and timber areas each year, but no statistics are kept showing the numbers moving in each direction. The numbers of persons crossing the ferries from the Northern Territories into Ashanti and the Colony is known, and in the year ended the 31st March, 1949, amounted to 204,568. Of these the number of persons who came from French territory was 77,817, or 38 per cent of the total. The 1948 census figures show that 174,067 persons or 4·2 per cent of the total African population claimed that they were born outside the Gold Coast. This relatively small figure may indicate that immigration from outside the Gold Coast is not extensive, but there is no adequate means of checking the accuracy of the returns on this point.

There is a very small number of Gold Coast Africans living abroad. For the most part they are engaged in clerical work and employed by Governments and commercial firms in Nigeria and other parts of West Africa.

There are few areas of over-population, apart from the main towns of Accra, Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi and northern Mamprusi. Several areas are sparsely populated by reason of the presence of the tsetse fly or lack of adequate water supplies.

It is not possible to give a detailed breakdown by occupations for the whole of the working population, since the great majority are subsistence farmers, and only very approximate figures exist for several occupations, among them being cocoa farming, which is the most important of all. The following table, therefore, gives approximate figures for the number of persons employed in the main occupations on the 31st March, 1949, but it is emphasized that several of the totals are estimates of a very general nature.

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS AT 31st MARCH, 1949

Occupation	Approximate number of wage-earners
Cocoa Farming	250,000
Mining	38,000
Road Transport	8,000
Railways	6,200
Air Transport	200
Lighterage and Dock Workers ..	2,000
Commerce (main firms only) ..	13,000
Timber and Forestry	11,400
Building (main firms only) ..	20,000
Fishing	48,000
Manufacturing Industries ..	23,000
The Public Service	26,900
Total	446,700

Digitized by Google

Social Amenities

Education

The Government exercises general control over the educational system in accordance with the provisions of the two Education Ordinances—Chapter 97 of the Laws of the Gold Coast, which covers the Colony and Ashanti, and Chapter 98, which applies to the Northern Territories. In the Colony and Ashanti, the majority of the schools are owned and managed by the Missions. In the Northern Territories, all but a few are Native Authority schools. The Central Advisory Committee on Education, the members of which are representatives of the Education Department, the Missions, the Gold Coast Teachers' Union, and prominent persons in the Community, advises on policy and administration. District Education Committees in the Colony and Ashanti advise on local education matters, principally those concerned with the allocation of grants-in-aid, and the opening and extension of schools.

In 1948 it was estimated that 35 per cent of all children of school age were in primary schools compared with 11 per cent in 1938-39. During the past decade the number of primary schools increased from 916 to 3,027 and the number of pupils from 83,480 to 286,721.

Secondary education is provided at Achimota secondary school, which is co-educational, 11 assisted secondary schools, and at about forty non-assisted secondary schools. The total enrolment in both assisted and non-assisted secondary schools was almost 7,000 in 1950. Pupils take the School Certificate examination of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

The need for higher education is met by the University College of the Gold Coast which was opened on the 11th October, 1948. It is an autonomous institution under a council which is a body corporate with complete control of the general policy and property of the College. Provision is made for an Academic Board to advance research and to be responsible for academic policy, the regulation of courses of study and examinations. There were 213 students in 1950.

The principal centre for technical education is the Government Technical School at Takoradi, which was reopened in 1947 after being closed during the war. The school at present provides a two-year teacher-training course designed to produce staff for the new trade-training centres and other educational institutions, a four-year handicraft teacher-training course, and four-year courses in building construction and mechanical engineering. The total number of students taking courses in 1950 was 273.

Trade-training centres for the training of artisans have been opened at Asuansi, Mampong and Tamale. Plans have been prepared for a pioneer technical institute at Kumasi, to provide day and evening classes for men and women who are already apprentices or who are in other types of employment.

Apprenticeship, as a means of training, is not extensively used, and is limited, so far as the main employers of labour are concerned, to the Railway, the Printing Department, and some of the commercial firms. It is, however, the customary system of training African craftsmen, and large numbers of juveniles and young persons learn traditional crafts as apprentices. It is intended in the future to make more use of the apprenticeship system.

Schools for the training of subordinate technical staff are conducted by the Agricultural, Animal Health, Medical, Posts and Telegraphs, and Survey Departments, as well as by the Railway Administration.

Teacher-training courses for infant-junior and senior-primary schools are provided for men at 13 institutions and for women at seven institutions. Total enrolment in December, 1950, was 1,831.

Scholarships for higher education and professional training are awarded by the Gold Coast Government assisted by a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. In 1950 the total number of Gold Coast students in the United Kingdom on Government or Government-sponsored scholarships was 271, while 207 students held scholarships at the University College of the Gold Coast. There were also 382 private students from the Gold Coast in the United Kingdom at that date.

Health

Medical officers are normally stationed at all the principal centres throughout the Gold Coast, but staff shortages since 1940 have considerably reduced the number of stations directly under medical supervision. Thirty-three Government hospitals, of which 19 are in the Colony, four in Ashanti, eight in the Northern Territories and two in Togoland under United Kingdom trusteeship, provided 1,854 beds, including cots, in 1950; a further 878 beds were available in 28 private hospitals.

In addition to the hospitals, there are infant and ante-natal welfare centres in Accra and Kumasi, while the Gold Coast branch of the British Red Cross Society owns similar welfare centres in Koforidua, Cape Coast and Sekondi.

Maternity and child welfare clinics, subsidized by Government, are maintained by Missions at Akim Swedru, Eikwe, Dsodje and Kpandu. In addition five mobile maternity and child welfare clinics are maintained by the Gold Coast branch of the British Red Cross in rural areas.

Dressing stations, run by nurses of the Medical Department, have been opened in rural areas. It is intended to hand these stations over to the Native Authorities as soon as they have the trained staff to administer them. An institution has been opened at Kintampo for training dressers for service with Native Authorities, and they will, after training, be required to staff the dressing stations, which will be converted into medical health centres. Plans have been drawn up for three model health centres to be established in the Northern Territories and in Togoland. Three mobile dispensaries, under the charge of nurses, are operating between Tamale and Prang, in the Northern Territories, in the Sunyani-Goaso area of Ashanti, and in the Winneba district in the Colony.

Ill-health and under-nourishment are important factors in reducing the efficiency of labour thereby increasing production costs and generally retarding economic development. Yaws is the most important of the diseases affecting labour, and is followed by malaria which, in the very young, is generally fatal, and, in older persons, produces chronic anaemia. Veneral diseases vary considerably in distribution, being more prevalent on the coast, in the main towns and on trade routes. Respiratory diseases, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, have a relatively low mortality among cases treated in hospital, but the mortality is higher with untreated cases. Leprosy does not take a heavy toll of life, while the known incidence of sleeping sickness is small.

Housing

Housing standards for the majority of the people, both in the main towns and in rural areas, are poor and there is need for a comprehensive scheme of slum clearance. The commonest form of dwelling in the rural areas is the compound house, which was intended for, and is still largely used to shelter, a compact family life, and to give protection against thieves. As families increase in size, however, this type of house tends to become overcrowded and ill-ventilated. Houses are generally built of mud or laterite, and the roofs of thatch, although in the cocoa-growing areas corrugated iron sheets are commonly used for roofing. None of the local materials remains rainproof without constant attention. Modern housing estates in the main towns and in some of the mining areas provide the answer to the urban problem. Cost is, however, a prohibitive factor in the villages, where the objective must be to provide suitable houses, using local materials and labour, within the capacity of the villagers' incomes, and much must depend on social changes among the people themselves.

Digitized by Google

Apart from the Kumasi Town Council, which has asked for a loan from the central Government to assist in financing a major slum clearance scheme and a scheme to provide accommodation for certain of its employees, there are no housing programmes being carried out by town councils. These bodies, however, control building generally in their areas by means of building regulations.

The main task of carrying out rehousing schemes in the larger towns is borne by the Central Government, through the Department of Social Welfare and Housing, and subsidized housing estates have been provided in Kumasi, Accra, Takoradi/Sekondi and Cape Coast. In addition, Government is pressing on with the Accra rehousing scheme which was started after the earthquake in 1939, but delayed by the war.

The greater part of the building programme being carried out in the Gold Coast is undertaken by private building contractors. Extensive programmes are normally entrusted to overseas firms, since African contractors do not usually compete for major contracts but undertake a great amount of local building.

There are no statistics available to show the extent of building by private enterprise, but it has clearly been very great in the past three or four years in the main towns of Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi/Takoradi and Kumasi. For example, the estimated capital value of buildings completed in Accra during 1950 (exclusive of Government building) was about £576,000 and £480,000 in Kumasi in the same period. Investment in school buildings, particularly in Ashanti, has also been substantial.

It is not practicable to quote details of building costs as they vary greatly according to the basis of estimation, the degree of experienced supervision that can be provided, and other factors that are subject to constant change. In 1948 building costs on Government housing estates were from 11 to 50 per cent above the 1946 figures. Costs in 1949 for Government buildings, such as bungalows, offices and stores, were about 150 per cent above the pre-war levels, owing to the higher landed cost of imported building materials and the rise in basic wage rates.

In regard to planning schemes for towns and villages, the policy of Government is to provide for the orderly and progressive development of urban and rural areas. This policy is administered by the Town and Country Planning Board, which was constituted in 1945. Planning committees were appointed in 1946 for the four main towns of Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi/Takoradi and Kumasi. These towns were made statutory planning areas under Ordinance No. 13 of 1945. The objectives of Government are to secure the orderly development of these areas in the first instance, and to do the same for such other towns as may later be declared planning areas. Advice on town planning is also given in the case of towns which are not declared planning areas.

Social Security

There is no organized provision for unemployment, old age and indigence as it is understood in the United Kingdom. The traditional social system, particularly the extended family system, provides for the assistance of the old, unemployed and infirm, and lays obligations on the whole family to look after interests and welfare of each member. There are a number of societies of various kinds which encourage thrift among their members, or are unofficial savings groups for particular purposes, such as funerals, which involve heavy expenses. The Post Office Savings Bank has conducted a vigorous savings campaign since the outbreak of the recent war, and the net deposits at the end of each year have shown a steady increase. Savings may also be deposited with the two banks operating in the Gold Coast. The idea of saving as a means of future security is comparatively new to the Gold Coast, but the Post Office savings movement has done much to overcome the distrust of saving through an organization which is not a recognized part of the traditional social structure. The Co-operative movement, also, has helped to promote the savings movement through salary earners' thrift and loan societies. One important channel which is widely used for the investment of savings for future security is investment in house property.

Political Structure

Constitutional and Political Background

The new constitution, which was approved by His Majesty the King in Council on 21st December, 1950, and introduced on 1st January, 1951, gives the people of the Gold Coast greater responsibility over their own affairs than is exercised in any other British Colonial territory in Africa.

A very few matters (appointments, promotions and discipline in the civil service being the most important) are vested in the Governor acting in his discretion. Otherwise the Governor is, except in very exceptional circumstances, required to consult the Executive Council and is bound to act on their advice. The Executive Council, which hitherto has been mainly an advisory body, has now become the principal instrument of policy, and the ministerial system has been introduced. The Council consists of the Governor as President, three *ex-officio* members and eight African "Representative Members" who must be drawn from amongst the members of the Legislature and whose appointment is subject to the Legislature's approval. The *ex-officio* members are the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary, who are responsible for external affairs, defence, security, the civil service, finance and justice. Of the eight African members, six are in charge of Government Departments, including development of agriculture, education, health, labour, local government, commerce and industry, communications and works. The remaining two have no departmental responsibilities, but one of these, Mr. Nkrumah, is the Leader of Government business in the Assembly, Minister for Development and the Chairman of the Finance and Business Committees of the Assembly. All members of the Executive Council are styled "Ministers." Questions in Executive Council are decided by majority vote.

The Governor has, from amongst the members of the Assembly, appointed Ministerial Secretaries to assist the Ministers in their duties, and each Ministry has a Permanent Secretary who is an official.

The Legislative Assembly

The Legislature consists of a single chamber, known as the Legislative Assembly. It is an almost entirely elected body consisting of

A Speaker,
3 *ex-officio* members,
6 Special members,
75 elected members.

The 75 elected members are elected in a variety of ways to enable the people to be represented in the new Assembly both through the traditional elements and the newer political organization. For the first time the Northern Territories are fully represented on the Legislature.

The Speaker was elected by the members of the Assembly from outside the Assembly at its first sitting. He has neither an original nor a casting vote.

The *ex-officio members* are the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary.

The *special members* comprise three chosen by the Chambers of Commerce of the Gold Coast, and three chosen by the Gold Coast Chamber of Mines. Not more than two special members are entitled to vote in the Assembly, although all six are able to vote in Select Committees to which they are appointed.

The 75 *elected members* of the Assembly comprise

(*a*) 37 members to represent the Colony, consisting of
12 Territorial members,
21 Rural members,
4 Municipal members.

Digitized by Google

(*b*) 19 members to represent Ashanti, consisting of
6 Territorial members,
12 Rural members,
1 Municipal member.

(*c*) 19 members to represent the Northern territories.

The *Municipal members*, who represent Accra, Cape Coast and the Sekondi-Takoradi, in the Colony, and Kumasi in Ashanti, are directly elected.

The *Rural members*, both in the Colony and in Ashanti, are returned by indirect election. The system of indirect election provides for primary elections in sub-districts to a district electoral college which in turn elects a member or members to the Legislative Assembly.

The franchise, both for the Municipal members and for the primary elections for the Rural members, is extended to men and women over the age of 21 who are British subjects or British-protected persons with a residence qualification of six months. In addition voters in the rural primary elections must have paid the local native authority rate. Voting both in the municipal and the rural elections is by secret ballot, the procedure being especially adapted to suit the needs of the illiterate voter. In the rural areas, for example, illiterate voters do not mark their ballot papers. Instead they place them, in conditions of complete secrecy, in the box of their chosen candidate. The various boxes are marked with clear symbols—a cock, a fish, and so on—which the voters know to represent the different candidates.

Territorial members are elected by traditional bodies, although they are not themselves required to be Chiefs, and in practice few of them at present are. Of the 12 Territorial Members to represent the Colony, 11 are elected by the Joint Provincial Council and one is elected by the Southern Togoland Council. The six Territorial members to represent Ashanti are elected by the Asanteman Council, the traditional council for Ashanti Chiefs.

The 19 *members to represent the Northern Territories* are elected by the Northern Territories Council enlarged for the purpose by approximately 100 members nominated by the local authorities (District Councils) on a population basis (1 per 10,000 of the population).

The Governor's Reserve Powers

As was recommended by the Coussey Committee, the Governor retains certain reserve powers under the new constitution. If any Bill, which the Governor considers essential to public order and good government, is not passed by the Assembly, then the Governor may declare that the Bill shall, nevertheless, take effect. The Governor may only make such a declaration in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Council or, failing this, with the prior consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies ; if, however, urgent necessity precludes consultation with the Secretary of State, the Governor may make such a declaration and immediately report his action to the Secretary of State. The Governor may also, subject to the same consultation with the Secretary of State, use his reserve powers in relation to decisions of the Executive Council.

The Governor is empowered to refuse his assent to any Bill, and he must reserve for His Majesty's pleasure certain specified categories of Bill—e.g. banking bills and bills relating to the constitutional position of chiefs. No bill or motion affecting the conditions of service of a public officer can be introduced without the Governor's permission.

Local Government

In all parts of the Gold Coast, apart from the municipalities, local government is in the hands of Native Authorities and subordinate Native Authorities. These are normally traditional bodies whose powers have been given legal force by Government recognition. They therefore consist mainly of chiefs, who are invariably assisted in their respective spheres of authority by councils of elders and sub-chiefs who are, generally speaking, representatives of the various sections of the community. The chiefs and elders usually owe their position to heredity according to family groups and to election by the representatives of their people. The Government does not interfere in the selection of chiefs, but compels only the appointment of statutory Native Authorities. Many of the Native Authorities and State Councils now include non-chiefs.

The Native Authorities are charged with the maintenance of law and order in their areas of jurisdiction and with the general welfare of their people. They are given such supervision and guidance as may be necessary by Administrative Officers. They are empowered to make by-laws and to impose an annual rate.

Apart from recommendations regarding changes in the Central Government the Coussey Committee made comprehensive proposals for the reform of local government, including the establishment of new local government councils on the U.K. model which would be predominantly elected and quite separate from the traditional bodies with which the present Native Authorities are closely identified.

Municipal Government

In Accra, Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi there are established Town Councils with a majority of elected members. Kumasi Town Council has an equal number of elected and nominated members.

The Sekondi-Takoradi Council was established only in 1946, although Sekondi had had a Town Council with an official majority for 42 years. The Cape Coast constitution was also revised during 1946 so as to provide an elected majority. The Accra and Kumasi municipal bodies are also, in their present form, only a few years old, though the Accra Council was established in 1898 and the Kumasi Public Health Board in 1925.

Each Council is invested with powers and duties to carry out the usual municipal services. The revenue of these Councils is derived principally from town rates and various licence fees, supplemented by annual grants from Government.

There is a statutory Sanitary Board in the Ashanti mining town of Obuasi, while sanitary committees with advisory functions have also been established in other of the smaller towns.

Principal Departments of the Administration

The co-ordination of Departmental activities and the direction of policy was, until 1st September, 1950, administered through the central Secretariat Organization. With effect from this date Departments have been subordinated to nine Ministries, which were set up in preparation for the introduction of the new Constitution.

In each Ministry is a permanent official, known as the Secretary to the Ministry, who will be responsible to the Minister for the co-ordination of Departments. In addition to the Ministries, there is the Gold Coast Railway and Takoradi Harbour Administration, which is a separate self-accounting organization.

The new Constitution will involve a measure of decentralization of Departmental activities to the three regions of the Northern Territories, Ashanti and the Colony, whose headquarters are at present at Tamale, Kumasi and Cape Coast. The form and functions of these Regional Administrations are at present under consideration.

Justice is administered by the Supreme Court which is presided over by the Chief Justice and seven Puisne Judges. Divisional Courts of the Supreme Court are held in different parts of the Territory and, within certain specified areas, the Lands Division of the Court exercise a limited original and appellate jurisdiction in land cases. There is also a large number of inferior courts with limited criminal and civil jurisdiction, presided over by District Magistrates and, in some cases, by District Commissioners. Native courts are established throughout the country with civil jurisdiction in cases where the parties are subject to them. The Supreme Court has an original civil and criminal jurisdiction, and also decides appeals from the inferior courts. Appeals from the Divisional Courts and the Land Courts lie to the West African Court of Appeal.

Digitized by Google

Responsibility for Economic Affairs

With the expansion of trade and the development of the primary production of the Gold Coast, efficient economic planning has become of very great importance.

The Minister of Finance has an overall responsibility for the co-ordination of economic policy. In addition, there is a Secretary for Development who is responsible to the Minister for Development for the execution of the Colony's Development Plan and for development generally. Industrial development, trade, supplies and the control of imports and exports are, and will continue to be the immediate concern of the Director of Commerce and Industry, who is the head of the Commerce and Industry Department and responsible to the Secretary of the Ministry.

Statutory Corporations, marketing boards and advisory bodies, which are representative of the principal interests concerned, all have an important part to play in the economic life of the country. The most important of these is the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board, the function of which, generally, is to regulate and control the marketing and export of cocoa. A second Board, for the marketing of agricultural products other than cocoa, and of forest produce other than timber, has recently been established. The development of industry and of agricultural production generally is being fostered by two corporations which have recently been established, the Gold Coast Industrial Development Corporation and the Agricultural Development Corporation.

There are a number of advisory committees concerned with economic matters, the most representative being the Economic Development Committee, under the chairmanship of the Governor. Mainly owing to its size, this Committee has not been able to meet frequently, and a Working Committee was formed in 1948 to keep economic policy under more constant review. The composition and functions of this committee is at present under consideration in connection with the new Ministerial organization. There is an Advisory Committee on Agriculture under the chairmanship of the Director of Agriculture with a widely representative membership. In addition there is an Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education, a Nutrition Committee and a Food Production Committee.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

The most important ordinances relating to Companies, Trading and Production (including trading and industrial licensing), and Taxation are as follows (the words in parenthesis after the title of the ordinance indicate the territory to which the legislation applies: "The Gold Coast," used without qualification, means the Colony, Ashanti and the Northern Territories as though they were a single territory; chapter references are to the 1936 edition of the laws of the Gold Coast):—

Companies. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 156
Provides for the incorporation, regulation and winding-up of trading companies and other associations. It also provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Companies.

Registration of Business Names. (Gold Coast) *No.* 26 *of* 1937
Provides for the registration of firms and individuals carrying on business under business names.

Agricultural Produce Marketing Board. (Gold Coast) *No.* 9 *of* 1949
Provides for the establishment of an Agricultural Produce Marketing Board, and for the regulation and control of the marketing and export of agricultural produce. It is the duty of the Board to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase and grading for export, and for the export and sale, of produce. It is also its duty, by means of the allocation of its funds, as provided for in the Ordinance, to promote the development of the producing industries concerned, and the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production. The produce covered by the provision of the Ordinance is as follows: Palm oil, palm kernels and palm kernel oil; copra and coconut oil; shea nuts and shea butter, and coffee.

Bananas (Control of Exportation). (Colony) *Cap.* 165
Provides for controlling the export of bananas.

Bills of Exchange. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 155
Codifies the law relating to Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes.

Cocoa Industry (Regulation). (Gold Coast) *No.* 14 *of* 1937
Provides for the inspection of cocoa and prescribes standards of quality for cocoa intended to be exported.

Coconut Industry Regulation. (Colony) *Cap.* 163
Provides for the inspection and the regulation of the export of copra and other products obtained from the coconut intended for export.

Fruit Industry Regulation. (Colony) *Cap.* 164
Provides for the inspection and regulation of the export of fruit, which includes any fruit, nut or vegetable product, other than cocoa beans, to which the Ordinance has been made to apply by Regulations made thereunder by the Governor in Council.

Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board. (Gold Coast) *No.* 16 *of* 1947
Establishes a Cocoa Marketing Board, and makes provision for regulating and controlling the marketing and export of Gold Coast Cocoa. Under this Ordinance it is the duty of the Board to secure the most favourable arrangements for the purchase, grading, export and selling of Gold Coast cocoa, and to assist in the development by all possible means of the cocoa industry of the Gold Coast for the benefit and prosperity of the producers.

Merchandise Marks. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 147
Regulates the law as to fraudulent marks on merchandise.

Palm-Kernels Adulteration. (Colony) *Cap.* 160
Provides for the prevention of the adulteration of palm kernels by such means as soaking in water, or the increase by 10 per cent or more in the apparent bulk of weight of palm kernels by the inclusion of other substances.

Patents Registration. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 148
Provides for the registration in the Gold Coast of letters patent granted in the United Kingdom.

Trade Marks. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 149
Consolidates and amends the law relating to trade marks.

United Kingdom Designs (Protection). (Colony) *Cap.* 161
Provides for the protection in the Colony of designs registered in the United Kingdom.

Weights and Measures. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 151
Regulates weights, weighing machines and measures.

Fisheries. (Gold Coast) *No.* 20 *of* 1945
Provides for the licensing of motor fishing vessels and the regulation of fishing.

Forests. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 122
Provides for the protection of forests and for the constitution and protection of forest reserves.

Gold Coast Agricultural Development. (Gold Coast) *No.* 27 *of* 1948
Provides for the establishment of a Gold Coast Agricultural Development Corporation, for the promotion of agriculture and for the development of agricultural activities generally. The objects of the Corporation are, subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council, to

Digitized by Google

establish and conduct any agricultural undertaking and to facilitate, promote, guide and assist in the financing of :—

(i) agricultural undertakings ;

(ii) laboratories and experimental stations for the investigation of all matters connected with the agricultural products of the Gold Coast ; and

(iii) schemes for the expansion, better organization and modernization of, and the more efficient carrying out of operation in, existing agricultural undertakings.

Palm Oil. (Colony) *Cap.* 125

Provides for the grant of exclusive rights for the extraction of oil from palm fruits.

Trees and Timber. (Gold Coast) *No.* 20 *of* 1949

Provides for controlling the cutting and removal of trees and timber, in order to enable the wasteful and uneconomic cutting and felling of timber to be prohibited, and to ensure that only timber of good quality is cut for export.

Minerals. (Northern Territories) *Cap.* 131

Regulates the right to search for, mine and work minerals in the Northern Territories.

Mineral Oil Pre-emption. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 129

Secures to His Majesty's Government certain rights in regard to mineral oil discovered in the Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti.

Mining Rights Regulation. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 128

Regulates the exercise of mining and ancillary rights.

Radio-active Minerals. (Gold Coast) *No.* 4 *of* 1946

Regulates and controls prospecting and mining for, and the export of, radio-active minerals.

Gold Coast Industrial Development. (Colony) *No.* 38 *of* 1947

Provides for the establishment of a Gold Coast Industrial Development Corporation, for the establishment of new industries and for the development of existing industrial undertakings. The objects of the Corporation are as follows :—

(*a*) With the approval of the Governor-in-Council, to establish and conduct any industrial undertaking ; and

(*b*) to facilitate, promote, guide and assist in the financing of :

(i) new industries and industrial undertakings ;

(ii) laboratories for the investigation of the commercial possibilities of products and the plant, equipment and technique necessary for making them ; and

(iii) schemes for the expansion, better organization and modernization of, and the more efficient carrying out of operations in, existing industries and industrial undertakings.

Beer. (Colony) *Cap.* 135

Controls and regulates the manufacture of beer, and provides for the levying and collection of excise duty on beer manufactured in the Colony.

Customs. (Gold Coast) *No.* 40 *of* 1947

Deals, *inter alia*, with :—

(1) Duties, prohibitions, drawbacks and refunds of duty.

(2) Arrival and report of aircraft and ships, landing of passengers, unloading, removal and declaring of goods.

(3) Warehoused goods and goods deposited in a Custom Area.

(4) Loading and exportation of goods.

(5) Departure and clearance of aircraft and ships.

(6) Transit trade.

(7) Importation and exportation by post.

(8) Coasting trade.

(9) Prevention of smuggling.

Income Tax. (Gold Coast) *No.* 27 *of* 1943

Imposes a tax upon incomes and regulates its collections.

Stamps. (Gold Coast) *Cap.* 179

Grants certain stamp duties, as specified in the schedule.

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

The Trade Tariffs are set out in the Customs Ordinance 1947 as amended by the Customs (Amendment of Duties) Resolutions and Orders. Rates of duty on principal imports and exports at the end of October, 1950, were as follows :—

Rates of Import Duty

Cotton Piece Goods :	
(*a*) Interlock fabric :	
Unbleached.	2½d. per lb.
Bleached.	3½d. per lb.
Dyed in the piece.	4½d. per lb.
(*b*) Other :	
Grey, unbleached.	1¾d. per sq. yd.
White, bleached.	2¼d. per sq. yd.
Printed.	3d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Dyed in the piece.	2¼d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Coloured.	2¾d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Velvets, velveteens, plushes and other pile fabrics.	9d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Fents.	9d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Towels.	4d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Yarn.	6d. per lb.
Silk (artificial or artificial textile fibres) manufactures : Plushes, velvets and other pile tissues.	1s. 3d. per sq. yard. or 10 per cent *ad valorem* whichever is the higher.
Fents.	1s. 6d. per lb. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Other kinds.	4d. per sq. yd. or 10 per cent *ad valorem*, whichever is the higher.
Motor vehicles, mechanically propelled : Motor cars, kitcars, pick-ups and delivery vans of a carrying capacity of less than 3,000 lb., shooting brakes, utility cars and vans, station wagons and other similar motor vehicles whether imported assembled or unassembled, and chassis for such vehicles when imported separately.	
(i) Where the wheelbase is less than 9 ft. 3 ins.	£20 each.
(ii) Where the wheelbase is, or is greater than 9 ft. 3 ins.	£30 each.
Motor cycles, motor cycle sidecars and other similar vehicles, whether imported assembled or unassembled.	5 per cent *ad valorem*.
Oils	
Illuminating, including kerosene, power paraffin and other refined burning oils.	7d. per gallon.
Lubricating.	5d. per gallon.
Motor Spirit and products ordinarily used as such.	1s. per gallon.
Grease, lubricating.	6s. per 100 lb.
Electric light bulbs, fluorescent lamps and tubes.	10 per cent. *ad valorem*.
Spirits	
Brandy.	£3 10s. per gallon.
Gin.	£3 4s. per gallon.
Rum.	£2 19s. per gallon.
Whisky.	£3 10s. per gallon.
Brandy, gin, rum and whisky imported otherwise than in bottles. In addition to above duty, for every degree or part thereof in excess of 43 per cent pure alcohol.	2s. per gallon.

Digitized by Google

Tobacco	
Unmanufactured.	4s. 3d. per lb.
Cigars.	£1 2s. 6d. per lb.
Cigarettes :	
(*a*) Not less in number than 408 to the pound	£2 17s. 6d. the thousand
(*b*) Less in number than 408 to the pound but not exceeding 3 lb. the thousand	£3 5s. 0d. ,, ,,
(*c*) Exceeding 3 lb. the thousand	£1 8s. 0d. per lb.
Other manufactured tobacco and snuff.	15s. per lb.

Rates of Export Duty

Cocoa.	10 per cent *ad valorem*, plus ¼ per cent for each £1 by which the value of the cocoa exceeds £160 per ton with a maximum duty of 25 per cent.
Diamonds.	6¼ per cent *ad valorem*.
Kola Nuts.	6d. per every 20 lb. weight or part thereof.
Manganese Ore.	6s. per ton.
Timber	
African mahogany, Gedu Nohor, Makore, Guarea, Sapele and Cedar.	
(*a*) Logs (round or square).	£2 per log.
(*b*) Sawn.	2d. per cubic foot.
All Species : Curls.	10s. per curl.

Import and Export Licensing

Under Section 41 (1) of the Customs Ordinance, the Governor-in-Council may by Order prohibit the importation, carriage coastwise or exportation of any goods whatsoever, and any such Order may prohibit importation, carriage coastwise or exportation until the Order is revoked, or during such period as may be specified in the Order. The Governor-in-Council may by order either absolutely prohibit importation, carriage coastwise or exportation, or he may prohibit such actions except on compliance with any conditions which may be specified in the Order, or the importation from or exportation to or carriage coastwise from or to any particular place named in the Order.

(iii) *Labour*

Conspiracy and Protection of Property (*Trade Disputes*). (Gold Coast) *No.* 12 *of* 1941

Sets out the law relating to conspiracy and the protection of property, and covers other purposes connected with trade disputes. Strikes and lock-outs are declared to be illegal if they have any object other than the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry in which the strikers are engaged, or if they are designed or calculated to coerce the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship on the community.

Labour. (Gold Coast) *No.* 16 *of* 1948

Covers, in detail, the recruiting of labour ; the making of contracts and agreements of service ; breaches of contract or agreement ; provision for the more effective control of natives of West Africa who are subject to the ordinance when they are passengers in ships ; the employment of females, children and young persons ; the powers of labour officers and medical officers ; wages and conditions of employment, and the prohibition of forced labour.

Trade Disputes (*Arbitration and Inquiry*). (Gold Coast) *No.* 20 *of* 1941

Provides for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal and a Board of Inquiry in connection with trade disputes, and makes provision for the settlement of such disputes. Under its provisions, the Governor may refer to the Board of Inquiry, for investigation and report, any matter connected with economic or industrial conditions.

Trade Unions. (Gold Coast) *No.* 13 of 1941

Provides for the registration and regulation of Trade Unions.

Workmen's Compensation. (Gold Coast) *No.* 52 *of* 1940

Provides for compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

(iv) *Land Tenure*

Concessions. (Gold Coast) *No.* 19 *of* 1939

Makes provision for regulating the granting, by natives of the Gold Coast, of rights with respect to land. It lays down that grants of rights in land, minerals, timber or other products of the soil by a native to a non-native must be in writing.

Concessions. (Ashanti) *No.* 27 *of* 1940

Makes certain provisions for mining concessions in Ashanti bearing a date prior to the commencement of the Concessions Ordinance, 1939.

Housing Schemes (*Acquisition of Land*). (Colony and Ashanti) *No.* 12 *of* 1945

Provides for the acquisition and vesting of lands in connection with housing schemes for natives of the Gold Coast in the Colony or Ashanti.

Land (*Perpetual Succession*). (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 114

Enables trustees appointed by bodies of persons to be incorporated, to hold land and to have perpetual succession.

Land and Native Rights. (Northern Territories) *Cap.* 121

Defines and regulates the tenure of land within the Northern Territories.

Land Registry. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 112

Provides for the registration of instruments affecting land, and lays down that no instrument shall be registered unless it contains a description of the land, including a statement of its boundaries, extent and situation.

Public Lands. (Colony and Ashanti) *Cap.* 113

Regulates the acquisition and vesting of lands for the Public Service.

(v) *Immigration Restrictions and Regulations*

The principal legislation governing the immigration of persons into the Gold Coast is contained in the Immigration Ordinance, No. 7 of 1947, and the Immigration Regulations, No. 14 of 1947, made under section 32 of the Ordinance. The Aliens Ordinance, Cap. 43, provides for the deportation of aliens by an Order of the Governor-in-Council.

Temporary visitors to the Gold Coast will be issued with permits valid for six months in the first instance ; they will not be allowed to undertake locally, without the authority of the Principal Immigration Officer, any employment other than that in respect of which entry was permitted. Owners or partners in existing business or professional practice are permitted entry, except in cases where such entry is deemed detrimental to the economic development of the Gold Coast inhabitants. Any person entering the Gold Coast for the purpose of establishing a new business or professional practice will be required to satisfy the Principal Immigration Officer that he has available to him not less than £5,000 in the case of a business and £1,500 in the case of a professional practice. Permission is not normally granted to immigrants intending to establish retail businesses. No restriction is placed on the entry of immigrant employees of any company or firm in the Gold Coast up to the number allocated to the company or firm by the Principal Immigration Officer. The allocation may be exceeded, with the permission of the Principal Immigration Officer, for the purpose of facilitating arrangements for relief of staff proceeding on leave. Children below the age of 16 whose parents or guardians are in the Gold Coast will be given immigration certificates valid until they attain 16 years of age, and wives accompanying or joining their husbands will be allowed to enter the Gold Coast.

Digitized by Google

The above procedure applies to all persons intending to enter the Gold Coast other than prohibited immigrants, stateless persons, ex-enemy aliens and persons specifically exempted under Section 4 of the Ordinance (members of Diplomatic Corps, etc.).

Communications and Transport

External Communications

Regular steamship services are operated between the Gold Coast and the United Kingdom, the continent of Europe, South Africa and the eastern seaboard of America. The Gold Coast is connected with the United Kingdom on the British Overseas Airways Corporation trunk route to West Africa. It has direct connection with the United States of America and South Africa on the Pan-American World Airways system, and is also visited by Portuguese, French and Belgian air lines. The West African Airways Corporation operates a coastal service between Lagos, Accra and other airports to Dakar, where the British South American Airways and other international airlines are joined. It also runs internal air services in the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

The following road-links with adjacent French territories are at present in existence —

With the Ivory Coast :	Pamu to Agnebilekrou
	Sampa to Bondoukou
With Haute Volta :	Navrongo to Po
With Dahomey :	Yogu to Sansanne-Mango
	Hohoe to Palime
	Accra to Lome.

In addition to improving existing road-links it is proposed to construct two additional road-links with the Ivory Coast from Nako to Lawra and from Enchi to Aboisso.

Internal Communications

South of the mountain range and in the area of highest economic development the Gold Coast is well provided with communications. The railway consists of a main line running from Takoradi to Kumasi, thence to Accra, a total distance of 366 miles. There are branch lines from Sekondi to Takoradi Junction (3 miles) from Tarkwa to Prestea (18 miles) from Aboso to Cinnamon Bippo (4 miles) from Huni Valley to Kade (99 miles) and from Dunkwa to Awaso (46 miles). The total rail mileage is 535 miles, all of 3 ft. 6 inch gauge. Chief traffic carried by the railway is cocoa, bauxite, and manganese. The road system is widespread in the South and provides links between the great areas of agricultural production and the railway. Owing to the greater productivity of the south-east, road construction there has been on a large scale, but with the increasing importance of the timber trade the road network in the south-west is developing. The main link to the North is from Kumasi to Tamale. Road construction in the Northern Territories has been on a smaller scale.

At the end of 1950 there was a total road mileage of 3,428 miles of which 757 were bitumenized. In addition, there were approximately 2,800 miles of roads, classed as being occasionally closed to traffic in wet weather, maintained by the Political Administration, native authorities and timber companies.

Rivers are not an important means of internal transport, and only the lower reaches of the Volta, Tano and Ankobra are navigable by steam launches and lighters. Developments projected on the Volta may render it navigable up to the Northern Territories, and a survey of the river has been started by a firm of consulting engineers.

The only deep water harbour is at Takoradi. The harbour consists of two granite rubble breakwaters, enclosing a water area of 220 acres, but the breakwaters afford protection from heavy surf to a much greater area to the north and outside the harbour proper, where ships may anchor in 30 feet of water. The southern or main breakwater runs for a distance of 4,000 feet in an easterly direction and curves to the northward for a further 2,300 feet. Its total length is approximately 1½ miles. The northerly, or lee breakwater, which runs in an easterly direction for a distance of 4,550 feet, is built within the protection of the main breakwater. The entrance to the harbour, between the two breakwaters, is 600 feet wide, with a minimum navigable depth of 36 feet.

Four berths are provided alongside the lee breakwater, two for general import traffic, capable of accommodating vessels up to 26 feet draught, one for bauxite ships up to 28 feet 3 inches draught. There is a coal wharf at the western extremity for coasting vessels with a maximum draught of 15 feet.

There is accommodation for seven ships with draughts varying from 24 feet to 32 feet to load cargo at buoy moorings inside the harbour. In addition there is one single mooring for coasting vessels not exceeding 500 tons gross registered tonnage. On the northward side of the lee breakwater, there is an oil tanker berth with a depth of 30 feet. Two 10-inch lines connect the berth with storage tanks 2½ miles away. A conveyor loading berth for bauxite is situated inside the lee breakwater, and an oil berth for the discharge of oil from tankers and bunkering of other vessels is provided on the seaward side in sheltered water. Rail, road, transit shed, open storage accommodation and ample cranage are provided at the deepwater and lighter wharves, and storage accommodation is provided for 40,000 tons of cocoa.

With the great expansion of the timber trade, the capacity of the harbour has proved to be insufficient to handle all the traffic. The harbour is accordingly being enlarged to the maximum extent possible on the present site, at an estimated cost of £2¼ million.

The only other port at which harbour facilities are provided is Accra, where a small breakwater provides shelter for surf boats and lighters. The surf ports at Cape Coast, Winneba and Keta, which were closed during the war, have been reopened, while timber is sometimes loaded at Axim.

Telegraphic Service

There were in 1950, 92 post offices and 304 postal agencies and all the principal centres were linked by telegraph. There is a coastal radio-telegraph station at Takoradi and an aeradio station at Accra. There are aeronautical telecommunication stations at Accra, Takoradi, Kumasi and Tamale.

Cable and Wireless Limited, operate the cable station at Accra, where submarine cables connect the colony with countries throughout the world. A radio-telephone service is now operated by Cable and Wireless Limited, between the four West African Colonies and also between the Gold Coast and the United Kingdom.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The suitability of the land resources of the Gold Coast for the production of various types of crops is governed largely by climatic conditions, the nature of the soil and the availability of water. With the exception of a narrow, dry belt of land along the coast, there are two main climatic areas, separated by a range of hills which runs across the country roughly parallel with the coast. South of this range, in what is described as the equatorial region, there are two well-defined seasons, wet and dry, with the wet season having two maximal periods, separated by a comparatively dry spell in August and September. The dry period is of importance in enabling the farmer to harvest his early crops, and to prepare his land for planting late crops. Agricultural conditions to the north of the range are affected by the lower rainfall, and by the fact that there is a single rainy season which reaches a peak about the month of August. Insufficient water supplies over the northern area as a whole, limit the areas which can be put under cultivation.

In the absence of more knowledge about the soils of the Gold Coast, it is impossible to estimate with accuracy the possibility of growing individual crops in particular

Digitized by Google

areas. In general, the soils appear to be deficient in organic matter and are particularly short of calcium and phosphates. Many of the soils of the Gold Coast have, however, been shown to be highly productive, and the lack of detailed knowledge of them is not a barrier to the expansion of agricultural production, for experience has taught the farmer which crops are suited to particular areas.

The principal features of the present organization of agriculture in the Gold Coast are, in general, the system of shifting cultivation, and the peasant ownership of the crop, whether individually or in families or village communities. The practice of shifting cultivation varies according to the nature of the crop and the availability of land, and in large parts of the cocoa area a rotational system with a period of fallow is the established agricultural practice. The system of shifting cultivation is seen in its most wasteful form in parts of the Northern Territories, where land is often left, after cultivation, in a condition from which it is unlikely to recover for many years.

In spite of an undefined communal ownership, land is, in practice, farmed by individuals or by limited family groups. Within the structure of his tribe and village, the peasant has a considerable " de facto " security of title to his land, but he has seldom a clearly defined " de jure " title. This has had the result of limiting the financial credit available to farmers and farming communities. Although most of the farmers occupy their land on the basis of customary title, the system has broken down in many parts of the cocoa areas, where it has been replaced by a system of landlords and tenants. Many cocoa farmers have become, virtually, plantation owners, employing paid labour, and often owning several cocoa farms.

The most important ways in which the traditional agricultural methods could be improved are by the introduction of mechanical cultivation and by planned irrigation. But these measures are not everywhere practicable. Detailed plans have been prepared for the large-scale production by mechanized agriculture of groundnuts, millet, and other crops at Damongo, in the Northern Territories, and at Amantin, in Northern Ashanti. An improvement in agricultural practice in certain parts of the Northern Territories has followed from the increasing use of ploughs and manuring but it is clear that mechanization and improved methods of cultivation are essential for any extensive and lasting development. The development of large-scale mechanized farming has been entrusted to a public corporation (the Gold Coast Agricultural Development Corporation) with wide borrowing powers and a Board of Directors fully representative of local interests. The production of rice by controlled irrigation has also been examined.

In addition to the improvement of traditional methods of cultivation, the expansion of agricultural production requires better processing and marketing arrangements. Limited experiments in the canning of agricultural products have been conducted at the Osu Fisheries Station during the periods of the year when fish are not available, but they have necessarily been on a very limited scale. The Industrial Development Corporation is also able to undertake particular schemes, such as the establishment of processing plants for oil seeds. The Cocoa Marketing Board handles all cocoa exports, while other export crops are marketed by the Department of Commerce and Industry on behalf of the Agricultural Marketing Board.

As in most tropical countries, there is an urgent need for soil conservation in the Gold Coast, particularly in the Northern Territories where erosion is, in some areas, extensive. The methods of soil conservation include the restriction of forest clearance for the extension of farming, the control of bush fires, the conservation of protective belts of forest, the general control of tree felling, the prevention of over-stocking and land planning. In Ashanti, the Confederacy Council has enacted legislation for the limitation and control of the destruction of forest for new farms ; elsewhere, however, Native Authorities have not done enough to protect their land from the spread of erosion.

The 1948 census showed that there are about 350,000 cattle in the Gold Coast, of which 7,000 are in the north-western part of Ashanti, 60,000 in the coastal belt between the sea and the southern boundary of the forest zone, and the balance in the Northern Territories. A detailed census of animal population, embracing all types of stock, is at present being taken. While the Department of Animal Health has improved the methods of disease control and rearing cattle, and has thus obtained a substantial increase in the cattle population, there has been no general improvement in the quality of the stock. In some areas, indeed, such as the north-eastern part of the Northern Territories, there has, in recent years, been a marked deterioration in quality, resulting mainly from shortage of grazing owing to an increase in the amount of land under cultivation. The owners of livestock in the Gold Coast are not nomadic, and there is little appreciation of the need for driving cattle to areas where there is little cultivation but where the grazing, particularly during the long dry season, is plentiful. The cattle are seldom taken beyond the easy reach of the owner's compound, and there has been no general attempt to supplement the lack of dry season grazing with fodder cut and preserved during the rains. In some parts of the Northern Territories, however, the presence of Fulani, who are naturally skilled in the management of cattle, has led to some improvement in the methods of animal husbandry.

The solution to the problem lies in the opening of new areas of fertile land which are at present under-populated because of the prevalence of the tsetse fly, inadequate water supplies, or other causes. Thus the proposed mechanized agricultural scheme in the Damongo region may have substantial advantages for cattle rearing as well as for the production of crops.

The following table shows the approximate numbers of livestock in the Gold Coast in the year ended the 31st March, 1949, with comparative figures for previous years (the figures are rough estimates only, and error may be large in the case of sheep and goats, and pigs) :—

LIVESTOCK POPULATION

	1937	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Cattle	172,000	300,000	320,000	350,000
Sheep and Goats	684,200	455,000	420,000	500,000
Pigs	81,500	101,500	101,200	102,000
Horses	4,340	6,000	6,000	6,500
Donkeys ..	16,030	12,000	17,000	18,000

Local Food Products

Agriculture in the Northern Territories is largely confined to the production of food crops. The main cereals grown are guinea-corn (sorghum), millet (pennisetum) and, to a smaller extent, Indian corn (maize). Yams and cassava are grown over most of the savannah country and minor crops include groundnuts, bambarra groundnuts (voandzeia), rice, fra-fra potatoes (coleus), and various types of beans. In the extreme north, the amount of root crops grown is very low and the proportion of cereals to total food crop production rises as high as 90 per cent. The main food crops throughout this area are millet, guinea-corn, groundnuts, beans and oil-seeds, but in the southern part, where the rainfall is more adequate, yams, on a large scale, maize and rice are also grown.

In the forest zone, south of the main range of hills as far as the northern edge of the relatively dry coastal zone, perennial crops are grown, including cocoa, kola, palm fruit and coffee. The main food crops include yams, beans and groundnuts.

In the coastal zone, the staple food crops are cassava, maize, plantains, palm oil, rice and coconuts. In both the

Digitized by Google

forest and coastal zones a wide variety of vegetables is grown, including okros, chillies and garden eggs. Largely as a result of shortages during the war, a limited local market grew up for European potatoes, as well as for market garden produce such as cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, spinach and other vegetables. Production has continued, although the relatively high costs and other disadvantages have confined their sale to a small market.

Fruit is grown over wide areas of the coastal and forest zones, and supplies are obtainable for most of the year. Pine-apples, avocado pears, bananas, oranges, grape-fruit, limes, and paw-paws are the principal varieties. Palm oil and palm kernel oil are made from palm fruit and are widely used for culinary purposes. In recent years, also, there has been an increase in the production of coconut oil for the same purpose, and a consequent reduction in the numbers of coconuts sent by traders to the north. Some groundnut oil is produced, but the high prices of the nuts tend to make the manufacture of oil uneconomic.

Attempts have been made to improve the local variety of poultry by crossing with British birds, but losses from disease have been heavy. In present conditions it is considered desirable to keep poultry only as an adjunct to some other basic live-stock or general farming.

A vigorous policy has been carried on during the past few years to expand the livestock population in the Gold Coast, in order to increase the amount of protein available to the people. During the war years, the breeding of pigs was intensified at the Department of Animal Health's farm at Pong-Tamale, in the Northern Territories. Both there, and at the Department's farm at Nungwa, near Accra, the pigs are kept in the open. The Department of Agriculture has experimented with the production of pigs under the "screened-sty" system on their farms at Pokoase and at Nima (now closed).

The number of cattle slaughtered in the Gold Coast during 1950 amounted to some 79,500 of which about 23,000 were locally produced. It is interesting to note that the majority of cattle slaughterings took place in the lesser markets or in places scattered throughout the forest areas. In addition to cattle, slaughterings in the markets and forest areas of locally produced animals, mainly from the Northern Territories, amounted to some 60,000 sheep and 45,000 goats.

Almost all the cattle imported into the Gold Coast come from the cattle breeding areas in the great bend of the Niger, some five hundred miles to the north of the Gold Coast frontier. They are driven on foot to the main markets of the Colony and Ashanti. Large numbers of sheep, goats and poultry are also imported. The total estimated values of livestock imported into the Gold Coast during 1948 was some £1,300,000, of which over £900,000 was in respect of cattle. The following table shows the estimated number of cattle, sheep and goats imported into the Gold Coast, both overland and maritime, during the past few years :

IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

	Number			*Value in £*		
	1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948
Cattle	10,244	25,510	46,847	183,651	503,130	929,293
Sheep	94,535	82,208	108,811	132,693	181,262	242,737
Goats	60,485	48,452	65,744	57,549	87,039	122,218

A considerable amount of nutritional investigation and research will be necessary before any detailed plan can be prepared for improving nutrition standards from local food production. Since the establishment of a Standing Committee on Human Nutrition in 1937, however, some nutritional surveys have been carried out and information acquired.

As a result of an experimental survey conducted in 1947, the nutrition officer reported that, in general, the standard of nutrition appeared to be better than that reported from many other tropical countries. There were few cases of frank deficiency, although there was evidence of minor deficiency.

In general, the deficiencies in the local diet appear to be protein, B vitamins, and, possibly, calcium and iron. Diet analyses show iron levels to be rather low, while, so far as can be estimated, the number of calories is from 20 to 25 per cent below the desired level. The evidence is however, not conclusive, and the collection of information on a scale sufficiently detailed and comprehensive to form an accurate judgment will require combined medical, nutritional and agricultural surveys.

An improvement in nutritional standards can undoubtedly be obtained from a better understanding of nutrition on the part of the people as a whole, and from the adoption of a balanced diet. Among measures which are being taken or are projected are teaching, general propaganda, the establishment of canteens and an improvement in the food supplied by "cateresses," and the general development of the rural areas. Action has been taken, in addition, to improve the diets in institutions such as hospitals and prisons, and also in labour canteens and schools.

Cash Crops

Cocoa

Cocoa is the most important product of the Gold Coast and is grown almost entirely by small farmers. The cocoa farms extend throughout the forest area, but it is impossible to estimate accurately the actual acreage under cocoa. The average yield of cocoa per acre has been estimated at 5 cwts. Since 1931, when the annual production of cocoa has varied around a figure of 250,000 tons, it has been assumed that there are about one million acres of cocoa in the Gold Coast. There has been, at various times since 1931, a considerable amount of new planting, while large areas of existing cocoa farms, particularly in the Eastern Province, have been destroyed by the swollen shoot disease. Whether the extent of new planting, which has been extensive in Ashanti in recent years, has approximated to the destruction caused by swollen shoot and other causes is not known precisely, but an estimate of one to one-and-a-half million acres under cocoa in the Gold Coast is still the accepted figure.

The importance of cocoa to the individual farmer and his family, and its importance to the whole economy of the Gold Coast, can be seen from an estimate of the numbers of people directly dependent on cocoa for their livelihood, and the amount of money received by the cocoa farming community. It is estimated that the number of cocoa farmers including owners, part-owners, tenants and cultivators of farms, is in the region of 300,000. The labour force may be put at an additional 250,000, and consists mainly of seasonal workers employed only for the harvesting and head-loading of the crop. For the purpose of estimation, an average of four persons may be allowed to each cocoa farmer's family, so that the number of people directly dependent on cocoa for their livelihood may be about 1½ million, almost 40 per cent of the estimated population. The income of this community during the 1950-51 cocoa season, at 70s. a load of 60 lbs. to the producer, amounted to about £34 million and accounted for by far the largest single portion of the total national income.

In recent years a disease now known as "Swollen Shoot" has attacked cocoa trees in the Gold Coast and at present the only effective method of controlling the disease is the removal of the affected trees. In the Western Province and the trans-Volta region the disease occurs in scattered outbreaks, but in the Eastern Province most of the cocoa is either mass infected or has already been devastated. The number of diseased trees cut out up to the end of 1950 was about 10¾ million, and the total sum paid to farmers in the form of rehabilitation almost £883,000, comprising grants paid in respect of cutting out, and replanting grants in respect of trees satisfactorily re-established.

Digitized by Google

The number of diseased trees cut out each year since the campaign started is as follows :—

1946	683,000
1947	1,978,000
1948	1,522,000
1949	3,302,000
1950	3,251,000
1951 (to end March)	1,278,000
	12,014,000

In April, 1951, the Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources directed that compulsory cutting out of diseased trees should cease pending an enquiry into its effects. A Committee of Enquiry was set up and, as a result of its recommendations, cutting out is to continue on a voluntary basis only.

While it is impossible to stress too strongly the extreme gravity of the swollen shoot menace, it would be an incomplete presentation of the facts to omit any reference to a more favourable aspect of the problem. It is mainly in the Eastern Province, in the original cocoa areas, that the disease is at present, unchecked. In Ashanti the disease is limited in extent and all the areas affected have been initially treated, and the disease is regarded as almost under control. In the Trans-Volta area, particularly in southern Togoland, it is also largely under control. These two areas produced about 73 per cent of total production in the 1949-50 season. The future of the industry depends on the ability to keep the disease out of these areas while, at the same time, first containing and then controlling it in the Eastern and Western Provinces.

A programme for the rehabilitation of the cocoa industry which is being carried out by the Department of Agriculture includes the establishment of 20 100-acre experimental stations, the first of which, at Oyoko, near Koforidua, has already been opened. The objects of these stations are to secure the multiplication of improved strains, to conduct experiments in improved methods of cultivation, and to examine methods of pest and disease control. Considerable assistance in this work is given by the West African Cocoa Research Institute. In regard to extension work, the Department's policy is to establish small demonstration plots of cocoa throughout the country, and 30 plots have so far been laid out.

The importance of cocoa to the economy of the country is illustrated in the following table which compares cocoa exports with other exports :—

COCOA IN RELATION TO TOTAL GOLD COAST DOMESTIC EXPORTS

Year	*Tonnage of Cocoa Exported*	*Value of Cocoa*	*Value as percentage of domestic exports*
1923-1932 (Average)	221,146	£ 8,185,683	% 77
1933	236,117	4,971,478	64
1934	230,270	4,040,697	51
1935	268,890	5,203,959	56
1936	311,151	7,659,743	63
1937	236,206	9,989,548	63
1938	263,229	4,540,899	41
1939	280,709	5,101,219	40
1940	223,918	4,494,908	33
1941	218,940	4,006,839	31
1942	123,896	2,385,518	21
1943	187,343	3,493,560	29
1944	202,833	3,890,326	33
1945	232,229	7,143,929	47
1946	236,316	9,488,316	48
1947	180,238	11,357,103	53
1948	214,302	20,327,048	62
1949	263,602	34,018,871	72
1950	243,512	49,981,044	71

N.B. The value of exports of cocoa is the "free on board" *cost* price to the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board and accordingly excludes the surplus realized by the Board on sale to overseas purchasers. The "free on board" *selling* prices of cocoa exceeded the "free on board" *cost* prices by £27,115,898 during the period 1st October, 1947, to the 31st December, 1948, of which £21,838,868, was in respect of 1948. If this figure is taken into account the percentage of total domestic exports by value in 1948 represented by cocoa is 77 per cent. Exports for 1949 and 1950 are valued at f.o.b. selling prices. The figures for 1950 are provisional.

The entire cocoa crop is marketed through the Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board which was established by Ordinance No. 16 of 1947, and consists of an official member appointed by the Governor as Chairman ; three persons appointed by the Governor ; five members to represent the producers, two of whom are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Joint Provincial Council, two on the recommendation of the Ashanti Confederacy Council and one appointed by the Eastern Togoland Council ; and four members appointed by the Joint Provincial Council, the Ashanti Confederacy Council, the cocoa manufacturers who maintain buying agencies in the Gold Coast, and the Chambers of Commerce in the Gold Coast. Owing to its great financial resources and the fact that it is the body responsible for regulating and controlling the marketing and export of cocoa, the Marketing Board occupies a very important position in the Gold Coast economy. It began operating on the 1st October, 1947, and by the end of its third year of working had acquired assets amounting to more than £53 million, although a proportion of this total, amounting to about £14,500,000, represented the accumulated surplus transferred from the funds of the West African Produce Control Board. Of the total sum £35 million were allocated to a stabilization reserve for use, if required, to offset possible losses on the Board's operations in future years. The reserve set aside to finance the cocoa rehabilitation scheme amounted to £8,053,700, and these amounts, with a grant of £1 million to the University College for the establishment of a school of Agriculture and its ancillary sciences, and sums allocated to reserves totalling almost £8 million, comprised the greater part of the Board's assets.

Cash crops other than cocoa

In comparison with cocoa, the Gold Coast produces no other export crop of any significance. There are, however, a number of crops which are exported on a small scale, while many food crops and oil-producing trees, such as palms and coconuts, have a relatively high cash value in the internal economy. No statistics of internal consumption are obtainable and the quantity and value of the cash crops consumed within the Gold Coast can only be estimated.

Oil Palm Products

The oil palm is indigenous and is found throughout the southern part of the forest zone in a relatively narrow belt running across the country from east to west, parallel with the coast.

The major fruiting period is from February to May, followed by a minor crop from September to November. At one time it was the main agricultural industry of the Gold Coast but has been displaced by cocoa. The peak of the export trade was in 1884, when 20,134 tons of oil and 38,702 tons of kernels were exported. During the war production was stimulated because of the urgent need for fats in the United Kingdom.

Digitized by Google

The following table gives figures for palm oil and palm kernels, but it must be remembered that the internal consumption greatly exceeds these amounts :—

EXPORTS OF PALM KERNELS AND PALM OIL

	Palm Kernels		*Palm Oil*	
Year	*Tons*	*Value – £*	*Tons*	*Value – £*
1936-1940 Average	7,025	63,811	518	8,385
1943	8,380	92,384	479	12,214
1944	12,617	148,545	513	11,245
1945	8,053	100,135	375	7,886
1946	5,953	74,048	165	4,055
1947	3,666	65,075	183	7,644
1948	7,139	165,121	42	3,564
1949	2,895	69,180	258	23,998
1950*	3,374	96,035	255	22,469

* Provisional figures.

Palm kernels and palm oil are marketed through the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board. The price paid to producers in 1951 for kernels was £29 17s. 4d. per ton.

Copra

The coconut palm is common along the coast. There is a substantial production of coconut oil in the Keta District and along the coast of the Western Province. There has been a large extension of planting during recent years.

Exports of copra in recent years have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF COPRA

Year	*Tons*	*Value – £*
1936-40 Average	1,084	9,729
1943	1,398	14,902
1944	971	9,401
1945	759	12,419
1946	397	6,175
1947	309	5,379
1948	350	11,315
1949	535	18,291
1950*	800	36,070

* Provisional figures.

The Agricultural Produce Marketing Board is responsible for the marketing of copra ; the price to the producer at the beginning of 1951 was £40 per ton.

Coffee

A small amount of coffee is produced and a five-year agreement was negotiated in 1947 with the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom to sell the exportable surplus to the Ministry at a price of £75 per ton for Arabica, and £64 per ton for Robusta. The agreement came into effect on the 1st January, 1948. In 1950 the prices of coffee sold to the Ministry of Food were increased to £152 9s. per ton (Arabica) and £134 3s. and £130 2s. per ton respectively for Robusta coffee types I and II. Minimum prices of £124 19s. per ton for Arabica coffee, £106 12s. per ton for Robusta coffee of fair average quality and £109 19s. per ton for Robusta coffee of superior quality, have been agreed with the Ministry for the period ending 1952. The marketing of coffee is undertaken by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Board ; the prices paid for Types I and II Robusta coffee in 1950 were £130 per ton and £125 per ton respectively f.o.b. Gold Coast ports. Exports in recent years have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF COFFEE

Year	*lbs.*	*Value—£*
1936-40 *Average*	266,726	3,781
1943	618,947	11,272
1944	1,272,842	25,821
1945	2,138,804	45,217
1946	1,525,746	33,814
1947	1,582,203	38,539
1948	1,174,472	32,298
1949	467,508	12,815
1950*	209,277	11,681

* Provisional figures.

Kola

The kola industry is based on wild trees, the only labour involved being in the collection of the nuts. The bulk of the crop is harvested during the months from November to January, but there is a lighter crop which matures between April and July. Much of the crop is exported, although a certain amount is consumed locally in the Northern Territories. Exports in recent years have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF KOLA NUTS

Year	*lbs.*	*Value—£*
1936-40 *Average*	10,926,060	97,628
1943	9,724,300	98,262
1944	11,798,000	119,886
1945	13,589,600	150,551
1946	14,008,600	130,528
1947	19,034,150	208,769
1948	12,989,595	134,420
1949	13,270,197	134,715

Citrus

Most of the well-known citrus species, such as limes, lemons, oranges, tangerines and grapefruit have been grown in various parts of the Gold Coast, but limes, oranges and grapefruit are the most common varieties. Between 2,000 and 3,000 acres of land near the villages of Abakrampa and Asebu, near Cape Coast, are devoted to the cultivation of limes and supply two factories in the neighbourhood. Lime juice is the main citrus export, but output in recent years has been affected by a virus disease which has attacked the trees. Export figures are as follows :—

EXPORT OF LIME JUICE

Year	*Gallons*	*Value—£*
1936-40 *Average*	453,387	28,734
1943	202,554	24,734
1944	176,456	19,806
1945	487,639	49,713
1946	418,177	46,713
1947	335,273	33,753
1948	270,767	27,139
1949	121,874	12,722
1950*	138,969	13,897

* Provisional figures.

Bananas

The export of bananas, which was being encouraged immediately before the outbreak of war, ceased in 1940 through lack of shipping. This is still the main factor which is preventing a resumption of exports but it will be necessary to organize production on an economic basis before a revival of the export trade will be possible. There is a considerable internal trade.

Rice

The present annual output of the rice industry is estimated to be about 8,000 tons, and there has recently been some increase in the number of power-driven rice hullers in use. In 1949 it was estimated that there were approximately 80 rice hullers of varying capacities in operation on the Gold Coast. In addition to these, there is the Government rice mill at Essiama, in the Western Province, which has a processing capacity of about 600 tons of paddy a year.

Cotton

A certain amount of seed cotton is grown in Southern Togoland and in parts of the Northern Territories but there is no substantial production. A mission from the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation visited the Gold Coast in 1948 to report on the prospects of increasing production, and extended variety trials are now being carried out by the Department of Agriculture.

Digitized by Google

Shea

There is a fairly large internal trade in shea-butter, which is obtained from the nut-kernels of the tree "Butyrospermum" which is indigenous to the Northern Territories. The butter is sent south for sale in the markets of the forest country.

Plans for the expansion of production

By Ordinance No. 27 of 1948, a Gold Coast Agricultural Development Corporation was set up with the object of promoting agricultural undertakings, and developing agricultural activities generally. The authorized capital of the Corporation is £100,000. It will engage, either directly or by providing financial and other indirect assistance, in major agricultural works, leaving small-scale projects to other bodies, such as the proposed Agricultural Loans Board. In December, 1949, the Board decided to undertake an agricultural scheme at Damongo, in the Northern Territories, and to form a subsidiary company to run it. The Corporation also appointed a Project Manager to organize the detailed work of bringing the scheme into operation. The main purpose of the scheme is to secure the diversification of agricultural production and to introduce modern, mechanized agriculture in areas outside the high forest zone where conditions appear suitable.

Forestry

The Closed Forest Zone, containing the area of high forest, covers 30,385 square miles, and the Savannah Forest Zone covers 61,458 square miles.

The Closed Forest Zone contains the great timber resources, and in this area 5,914 square miles, or 19·7 per cent of the total, are permanent Forest Reserves. Of this area, 3,428 square miles are regarded as actually or potentially accessible. It is estimated that, of the remaining area, some 10,500 square miles are still under forest proper, the remainder having been converted to agriculture which, in normal times, is thought to destroy approximately 300 square miles of forest each year. Much of this destruction is caused by the practice of shifting cultivation.

The Savannah Forest Zone includes about 41,700 square miles of unreserved forest and only 1,138 square miles of Forest Reserves. It produces mainly poles, fuel and minor forest produce.

The Government's forest policy is to create permanent forest resources by the reservation of suitably situated areas of forest, or of land suitable for afforestation, sufficient in extent to meet the needs of the community. The direct benefits of the policy are the creation of a sustained and adequate supply of forest products to meet local requirements as well as the demands of the export trade. Indirect benefits include the preservation of water supplies, the maintenance of climatic conditions favourable to the growth of the main agricultural crops, and the conservation of the soil.

In the Closed Forest Zone it is most important to maintain conditions favourable to the growth of cocoa. Forest Reserves have, therefore, been located mainly with the purpose of maintaining adequate atmospheric humidity by affording protection against the effects of the harmattan, and by conserving water supplies and the soil. Reserves established for protective purposes of this kind cover almost 4,500 square miles, while Reserves constituted for productive purposes occupy about 1,500 square miles. Forest Reservation in the Closed Forest Zone is now practically complete so far as the above considerations apply, although it is desirable that additional forest areas should be reserved for productive purposes by the Native Authorities.

In the Savannah Forest Zone, reservation is inadequate and progress has been held up through shortage of staff. In the densely populated parts of the zone the principal dangers are a shortage of poles and fuel wood, and the spread of soil erosion on a scale that might create barren areas unable to support the population. The first of these threats can be met by establishing plantations of rapid-growing species, including exotics, and work on this has begun; to combat soil erosion, organized land planning is required. Certain parts of North Mamprusi have been selected as planning areas for this purpose, to be managed under a combined forestry and agricultural practice designed to conserve the soil and water supplies and an air survey is being carried out so as to make it possible to plan the means by which the successful results secured in the small area of the Dedoro-Tankara land planning scheme can be applied to the area as a whole.

In the area of high forest, outside the forest reserves, within the Closed Forest Zone, large-scale intensive utilization is being carried out by a considerable number of timber firms. The greater part of the area is now covered by concessions held by the various timber interests. Utilization in this area cannot be placed on a sustained yield basis as the concession holder has no control over farming. Considerable powers to regulate the operations of concession holders are, however, vested in the Chief Conservator of Forests. His normal practice is to place under a yield control that part of a concession which is unlikely to be farmed during the next 10 years, and to direct the concessions holder to concentrate operations in the part of the concession which is likely to be farmed within that period, in order that the timber thereon should not be wasted.

The post-war boom in the export trade has continued and exports in 1950 reached a new record. In the case of log exports, the proportion of mahogany is falling steadily, while before the war mahogany formed almost the whole of the timber exported. The increasing use of other kinds of timber, serving a wider market, is one of the most encouraging features of the industry at the present time. The timber consists entirely of hardwoods.

The following table shows the total exports of logs and sawn timber during recent years, with the percentage of mahogany to total exports.

EXPORTS OF TIMBER

Year	*Export in cubic feet*			*Mahogany as % of total*	*Total Value £*
	Mahogany	*Others*	*Total*		
1935-38 (Average)	936,108	37,697	973,805	96·1	105,556
1943	2,205,266	20,380	2,225,646	99·1	249,372
1944	2,609,062	17,282	2,626,344	99·3	319,524
1945	2,648,860	43,191	2,692,051	98·4	503,488
1946	3,812,007	498,265	4,310,272	88·4	942,115
1947	4,947,716	790,543	5,738,259	86·2	1,607,578
1948	5,683,428	1,412,243	7,095,671	80·1	2,453,403
1949	4,072,910	3,466,717	7,539,627	54·0	2,165,551
1950	4,162,299	6,000,538	10,162,837	40·9	3,852,984

During the year ended 31st March, 1951, the local consumption of timber, including sleepers, is estimated to have amounted to over 1½ million cubic feet. The consumption of firewood continued on a very large scale, and 140 million cubic feet would be an extremely rough estimate for the Colony, Ashanti and the Southern Section of Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship, but excluding the whole of the Northern Territories.

Logs form the largest item in timber production, with sawn wood second, and sleepers third. Lesser products in order of importance are firewood, round wood, charcoal, and other split wood. Estimates of out-turn of major forest produce during the financial year 1950-51 are :—

OUTPUT OF TIMBER AND FUEL—1950-51

	000 cu. ft.
Logs	8,800
Pitsawn Timbers (mostly sleepers)	795
Shingles	6
Hewn wood	179
Round or Split wood	7,800
Firewood	141,400
Charcoal	1,800

The total estimated value of these products is £2,888,000.

The timber industry has expanded rapidly since the war, and considerable progress has been made in changing

Digitized by Google

from manual to mechanized haulage to the road or rail head. There were, in 1950, 24 commercial sawmills in operation. The Closed Forest Zone produces large quantities of minor forest produce, consisting mainly of bamboos, canes, grass thatch, vegetable oils and seeds, palm wine, gums and resins, chew sticks, rubber and latex. The value of these products in the year ending March, 1951, is estimated to be £3,993,000.

Fisheries

Both the sea and river fisheries have developed solely through the initiative of the local fishing communities and they received little notice until the scarcity of imported foods during the war led to a new appreciation of their significance as an important source of protein. A survey was then commenced with a view to their further development, and this led to the establishment of a Fisheries Station in Accra in 1945. The work of the Station quickly expanded and it was already concerned with fisheries throughout the Gold Coast when, in 1949, it became the headquarters of the Fisheries Department.

Of the many species of fish inhabiting or visiting the waters off the Gold Coast, those yielding the most abundant catches are sardinella aurita, sardinella cameronensis and caranx hippos. Although the sardinellas and the caranx predominate in the Colony's sea catch, other species also make valuable contributions. These include tunny, shark, snapper, and several varieties of sea bream, which are caught by lines, and drum, threadfin, Spanish mackerel, barracuta, and sole, which are landed by beach seines. Crawfish, crab, shrimps, and turtles are also caught, but in relatively small quantities. The total sea catch cannot be estimated with any accuracy, but in a normal year it would appear to be at least 30,000 tons. The price obtained for it on first sale on the beach varies according to the species and the current scarcity or abundance of fish, but 3d. per lb. is an average value. This would give the catch a total value of some £800,000.

No measures of conservation have hitherto been applied to the sea fisheries as the present methods and degree of fishing do not endanger the stocks, but the Fisheries Ordinance provides for the imposition of controls should they become necessary.

The Volta and its tributaries, which form the largest river system in the territory, are fished throughout their lengths and provide a catch that makes a welcome contribution to the diets of the peoples in inland districts, although it is much smaller than that of the sea fisheries. It includes a variety of species, the most abundant of which are catfish, Nile perch, distichodus sp., labeo sp., and mormyrus sp. Fishing is chiefly by seine nets and set nets, although cast nets, lines, and basket traps are also used extensively. For several years the catches of typical seine nets have been recorded and the annual catch of such a net has usually been about five tons. Little information is available on the catches of set nets and cast nets, which work as a large number of small units scattered along many hundreds of miles of the river, but it is probable that the total annual catch from the Volta system does not exceed 1,500 tons. To guard against depletion of stocks, the use of seine nets and set nets is controlled by Regulations under the Fisheries Ordinance.

There is a keen demand for fish throughout the Colony and Ashanti, where other flesh foods are scarce and expensive, and even in the height of the fishing season there is no surplus, although there may sometimes be local gluts in fishing towns when catches are too heavy for the curers to handle. Kumasi, in particular, is a centre for the distribution of dried fish, its market drawing from the sea fisheries of Accra and Sekondi, from the Volta river, and even from the rivers of the French Sudan. In the Northern Territories the consumption of fish is smaller, not because it is less needed there, but because the relatively low purchasing power of most of the inhabitants renders them unable to compete for supplies with the more wealthy areas to the south.

The distribution of fish for sale is carried out by the women of the fishing community, in whose hands rests the business organization of the industry. In a few of the larger coastal towns there is a market for fresh fish, but most of the catch must be cured to preserve it for distribution through inland markets. It is dried by smoking over a slow fire, without salt, or is lightly salted and then sun dried : in either case it keeps for only a few weeks at the most. The central problem of distribution is that of preservation, and the solution demands a method that, without greatly increasing its cost, would enable fish to be held for a period of at least six months, so that a regular supply could be maintained through the time of scarcity between the seasons. Smoking fails to meet these requirements as smoked fish does not keep for long in the hot and humid climate of the Colony, which favours the growth of bacteria and moulds. Heavy salting is more effective, but the product is not popular. Refrigeration at a sufficiently low temperature gives complete protection, but the high cost of the equipment has hitherto precluded its introduction on any large scale. The most promising method at present under investigation is canning, and it has been found that the sardinellas and the caranx give canned packs that are acceptable to local taste and have satisfactory keeping qualities. A fleet of power craft supported by canneries for the preservation of their catch could make a notable contribution to the Colony's food supply. Such a development does not appear to be impracticable and investigations into its economic possibilities have been carried on for some time.

Capital for the industry is derived almost entirely from the fishing community, and as yet there is no participation in it by persons other than natives of West Africa.

The possibilities of developing the industry are being explored by the Fisheries Department which is using a motor surfboat in the sardinella fishery : the results of the experiment indicate that the catch could be greatly increased by the employment of power vessels. The most serious obstacle in the way of such development is the lack of harbours from which the vessels could operate and in which they could lie during spells of bad weather. The experiment is being continued as it seems likely that the fishery could profitably employ small craft of the motor surfboat type, and also large decked vessels. Little is known about the stocks that inhabit the waters beyond the 30-fathom line, and these await investigation by vessels capable of trawling in deep water.

Minerals

The main mineral resources of the Gold Coast are gold, with silver as a by-product, diamonds, manganese and bauxite. All are being actively worked. Other minerals exist in small quantities, including oil, clays, marble and limestone. A recent investigation into oil resources has disclosed that known deposits are too limited for economic exploitation.

Gold

Gold is found over most of the forest area and has been located in parts of the Northern Territories. The producing mines, however, are all in the Western Province and Ashanti. At 31st March, 1951, there were 10 companies producing gold from lode mines and one company producing from alluvial deposits.

Digitized by Google

The following table contains general statistics of the gold-mining industry :—

GOLD MINING STATISTICS. (YEAR: 1ST APRIL—31ST MARCH)

	Average 1935–40	1945–46	1946–47	1947–48	1948–49	1949-50	1950-51
No. of Companies mining—Lode	22	7	12	14	13	13	11
No. of Companies mining—Alluvial	2	1	1	2	2	2	1
No. of Companies producing—Lode	11	7	9	9	10	9	10
No. of Companies producing—Alluvial ..	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Total short tons crushed—Lode	1,433,832	1,205,818	1,770,016	1,860,638	2,290,940	2,332,381	2,374,598
Fine ozs. of gold won—Lode	572,055	522,156	586,193	523,843	650,439	640,987	653,146
Total cubic yards treated—Alluvial	3,838,897	4,850,800	5,390,500	7,700,360	8,260,080	8,438,190	8,885,480
Total fine ozs. of gold won—Alluvial	15,903	19,167	20,048	31,933	37,235	38,383	40,575
Total fine ozs. of gold won	587,958	541,323	606,240	555,776	687,674	679,370	693,721
Total value in £ of gold won	2,497,648	2,299,540	2,575,309	2,360,937	5,922,592	7,364,662	8,602,140

N.B.—The highest annual output was in 1941–42 at 885,712 fine ounces. The lowest annual output was in 1901 at 5,223 fine ounces.

The devaluation of the pound led to an increase in the official price of gold from 172s. 3d. per fine ounce to 248s. On the other hand, costs of mining machinery, equipment and chemicals were increased, and there have been significant increases in wages. There is little doubt, however, that the financial position of the low-grade mines has been strengthened, as a result of devaluation.

Silver

Silver is produced as a by-product of gold, and the Gold Coast is the third largest producer in the British colonial territories. Viewed in relation to world production, however, the importance of silver output in the colonies is very small, since their total output is only about one-tenth of one per cent of world production.

The following table shows the quantity of silver exported from the Gold Coast in recent years :—

EXPORTS OF SILVER

Year	*Fine ounces (Troy)*	*Value—£*
1943	50,288	5,323
1944	56,819	6,007
1945	36,666	3,891
1946	54,526	9,867
1947	41,250	8,160
1948	45,553	8,464
1949	40,051	7,697
1950*	43,317	10,754

* Provisional figures.

Diamonds

Alluvial diamonds are widely distributed in the Gold Coast, but are worked in two districts only, in the Birim valley, near Kade, Oda, Akwatia and Atiankama, where there are workings operated by Europeans and Africans, and near the river Bonsa, south-west of Tarkwa, where there are African workings only. The diamonds are all of small size but are good in colour and quality. The largest diamond so far discovered weighed 2½ carats.

Diamond production has increased in recent years mainly as a result of increased output by Africans working for their own account, who in 1950 accounted for over 50 per cent of total production by value compared with less than 7 per cent in 1946-47.

DIAMOND EXPORTS

Year	*Carats*	*Value—£*
1943	1,317,795	721,494
1944	1,165,857	659,028
1945	812,450	479,406
1946	809,001	622,525
1947	747,035	746,562
1948	878,092	976,060
1949	963,435	1,390,636
1950*	932,451	1,837,452

* Provisional figures.

Manganese

Manganese is produced at Nsuta, in the Western Province, by the African Manganese Company Limited. Manganese is also mined by the Yakau Manganese Company Limited. Production of manganese began in 1916 and since then the Gold Coast has become the second largest producer in the world, and the chief exporting country. It is probable that production will be increased.

The following table shows manganese exports for the past few years :—

EXPORTS OF MANGANESE ORE. (*Year : 1st April—31st March*)

	1935-1940 *Average*	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
No. of Companies mining ..	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
Tons exported	413,082	672,480	769,509	585,126	657,028	725,282	751,876
Value in £ f.o.b.	826,955	1,977,140	2,301,250	2,301,250	3,006,758	4,202,724	5,688,887

Bauxite

There are considerable deposits of bauxite in the Gold Coast and reserves have been estimated by the Geological Survey Department at over 200 million tons. The largest deposits are at Sefwi Bekwai, in the Wiawso District of the Western Province, and at Yenahin, in Ashanti. Working of the Sefwi Bekwai deposits began in 1941, and a railway had been constructed to link the deposit with the main line from Takoradi to Kumasi which is 50 miles away. Other important deposits, which are not at present being worked, are at Mt. Ejuanema, in the Mpraeso District of the Eastern Province.

The British Aluminium Company is the only company at present in operation and works in the Wiawso District of the Western Province. Export figures are shown in the following table :—

EXPORTS OF BAUXITE. (*Year : 1st April—31st March*)

	1935-1940 *Average*	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
No. of Companies mining ..	Nil	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tons exported	Nil	119,349	118,454	90,706	144,579	135,145	105,454
Value in £ f.o.b.	Nil	381,866	379,043	262,062	274,701	253,454	204,848

Digitized by Google

Labour Employed in the Mining Industry

The following table gives figures of the labour employed in the mining industry as a whole during the years covered by the preceding tables :—

LABOUR EMPLOYED IN THE MINING INDUSTRY. (*Year : 1st April—31st March*)

	1935-1940 *Average*	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
Europeans—Surface	653	400	542	616	649	631	627
Europeans—Underground ..	303	121	180	201	205	234	270
Total Europeans	956	521	722	817	854	865	897
Africans—Surface	25,684	22,082	25,082	25,541	24,481	24,894	27,448
Africans—Underground ..	11,650	9,912	11,655	12,261	13,527	13,009	13,166
Total Africans	37,334	31,986	36,737	37,802	38,008	37,903	40,614
Total Europeans and Africans	38,290	32,507	37,459	38,619	38,862	38,768	41,511

*Government Mining Policy**

Allodial rights in or over land, including the minerals found therein, vest, generally speaking, in the stools. In this case the term "stool" may be taken as the tribal equivalent of the English term "crown." The practice is that the grant of any interest in or over land, with respect to minerals or products of the soil, is negotiated, within the limitations imposed by the Concessions Ordinance, 1939, directly between African owners and the concessionaires. Previous attempts to vest rights in land in the Crown met with firm opposition, as illustrated by the controversies over the Crown Lands Bill of 1894, the Public Lands Bill of 1897, and the Forest Bill of 1911, and Sir H. C. Belfield considered, in 1912, that any attempt on the part of the Government to extend the rights of the Crown would amount to a breach of faith with the people.

Within the limitations resulting from the fact that the stools possess the rights in and over land, the main principles of colonial mining policy are that mines should be run efficiently and on an economic basis ; that other natural resources should be protected ; that the rate of development and exploitation should take account of social as well as economic considerations ; that labour conditions should be kept at a good standard, and welfare and social arrangements properly provided for ; that provision should be made for the people of the country to fit themselves for the highest technical and administrative posts ; and that an adequate share of the proceeds of mining should be retained in the Colony.

Royalties

The only gold mine which pays a royalty is the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation. Taxation of the gold mining industry as a whole consists of a duty on output, as provided for by the Gold Duty Ordinance of 1948, and income tax.

Manufactures

There is little industrial production of a manufacturing nature. The Accra Brewery, which was established in 1933, is the most important manufacturing concern and in addition to mineral waters produces more than 800,000 gallons of beer yearly.

An overseas firm has established a factory at Takoradi for the manufacture of cocoa butter and cocoa cake, and for the processing of oil seeds. There are 24 sawmills in operation, and 7 factories for the manufacture of furniture. There is a factory at Asebu for the extraction of lime juice and oil for export, an oil palm plantation and mill at Sese, near Takoradi, 8 mineral water factories, a salt works and a soap factory.

The employment afforded by these concerns is relatively small, but the capital invested in them is substantial. There is a small trade in local manufactures for the home market, including furniture and articles made from timber, locally-woven cloth, bricks, tiles and beeswax. There is a small export trade in manufactured or processed goods, and these include beer, ale, stout, porter, fruit juice, grain, meal, gums, hides, skins, lime oil, shea butter, leather and wood manufactures.

It is the policy of the Government to afford the fullest opportunity for the development of industrial production. For this purpose an Ordinance was enacted in 1947 to provide for the establishment of an Industrial Development Corporation. The objects of the Corporation are to promote and assist in the financing of new industries and industrial undertakings, of laboratories for the investigation of the commercial possibilities of products, and of schemes for the improvement of existing industries. Assistance is given by way of secured loans, by joint participation in the business, or by the formation of a company to carry on the business. Among the industries so far assisted by the Corporation are brick and tile manufactures, weaving, soap manufactures, sawmilling, and the processing of cassava. Industries which may shortly receive assistance are plants for the processing of oil seeds and for the canning of fruit and fish.

Village Industries

There are numerous village industries such as weaving, pottery, basket-making, wood cutting and carving, vegetable drying and furniture making. There is also a widely-dispersed gold and silversmiths' industry. Canoes are made in many parts of the forest area, while most villages have blacksmiths, sawyers and carpenters.

Much has been done to develop local crafts by the industrial training which is given by the Prisons Department. The trades taught in the central prisons and other establishments include carpentry, cabinet making, building, tailoring, weaving, pottery, the making of ropes, shoes, mats, nets, bricks, baskets and cane chairs.

Other Economic Activities

Organization of Trade

The distributive trade forms a large part of the economic life of the people, particularly in the field of petty trading, which is the preserve of the women. It is impossible to tell how many thousands of persons are engaged in the retailing of small quantities of goods throughout the country, but it is certainly a relatively large proportion of the women, especially in the main towns.

The most important channel by which goods manufactured overseas reach the consumer in the Gold Coast is through the main importing firms. The firms import from parent houses or special agencies, and generally distribute their goods on a wholesale basis to retail distributors in the Gold Coast. These retailers may either sell direct to the public or sell again to smaller retailers and petty traders. The importing firms also retail a certain

* For a fuller statement, see Gold Coast Sessional Paper No. IX of 1947, which contains a memorandum on colonial mining policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, together with despatches on the exchange between His Excellency the Governor and the Secretary of State, Government Printer, Accra, 1947.

Digitized by Google

amount of goods direct to the public, but the tendency is to concentrate on the wholesale trade, leaving retailing in the hands of the local people.

Foodstuffs and goods manufactured locally or in other parts of West Africa are retailed in the markets which are scattered throughout the country, many of them being of considerable size. Market traders specialize in the various commodities on sale such as fish, vegetables, beads, meat, mats, spices and dyes. They are well organized and have a keen appreciation of the laws of supply and demand in their effect upon prices, and are able to estimate with some accuracy the spending power of the public, particularly in the large towns.

Road transport services form a major activity, closely associated with the distributive trade. Large numbers of vehicles are employed and the number of passengers and the amount of freight carried must be very large. Owing to the practice of the vendor accompanying his goods to the market, which limits the freight capacity of the available transport, and to general causes such as relatively poor roads in remote areas, rising costs, and the lack of organization in the distributive services, transport costs add considerably to the price of local foodstuffs in the markets.

Professions

The following statistics show the numbers reported to be in various professions in the country at the end of 1950 :—

Medical	
Government Medical Officers	62
Private Medical Practitioners (incl. Mining Companies)	61
Government Dental Surgeons	4
Private Dental Surgeons	2
Government Nurses	518
Government Pupil Nurses	406
Legal	
Lawyers	263
Education	
School Teachers	7,949

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement in the Gold Coast was started in 1926 by the Department of Agriculture, and, from the outset, it was primarily concerned with the marketing of cocoa. The movement was re-organized in 1944, following the establishment of the Department of Co-operation. In November, 1944, the Gold Coast Co-operative Federation, Ltd. was formed, and from 1945 onwards it acted on behalf of the various marketing societies in arranging the orderly marketing of their cocoa. By canalizing the entire production of the co-operatives in this way, the Federation contributed to the rapid growth of the co-operative movement. By the end of 1946, many of the primary marketing societies had been amalgamated into larger and more economic units, and a start was made with the extension of co-operation into fields other than marketing. The Gold Coast Co-operative Bank, Limited was registered in October, 1946, and, in the same year, a number of consumer, thrift and loan, and thrift and credit societies was formed. A recent development has been the growth of the consumer movement.

Government places great importance on co-operation as a means of economic development. The aim is to unite societies and build up a three-fold organization covering banking, marketing and consumer co-operation. To give the movement a sound and democratic basis, the Department of Co-operation has tried to disseminate a wide knowledge of co-operative principles and practice. It investigates specific projects to see whether they are suitable for co-operative association, and acts as adviser and auditor to existing societies. In all that it does, it endeavours to safeguard the interests of the individual member. The technical education of staff belonging both to Government and to the societies is another main function of the Department. Direct aid to co-operative ventures is the exception, but registered societies enjoy certain legal privileges and are entitled to the advisory services of the Department. Government financial guarantees, also, are an important means of giving stability to the apex marketing and consumer societies.

During the year ended the 31st March, 1949, the Bank issued £17,516 on fixed term loans. Of this total, £4,300 was on long or medium term to finance unions' buildings, and £13,216 was for agricultural credit. Interest rates were 6 per cent on short term and 4 per cent on long term credits. The Bank pays 3½ to 4 per cent on fixed deposits, and has a paid-up share capital of £16,500, with reserves of £5,500, and deposits of £11,000. Of its funds, £17,500 are in Government securities. The Bank serves as a repository for savings societies, and it has been the special policy of its committee to try to grant a slightly higher rate of interest on the small savings of these societies, provided no loss is thereby incurred. But the Bank's main function has been the financing of cocoa marketing, for which it made available sums totalling £3,500,000 in the 1948–49 season. Money is borrowed from the commercial banks against a Government guarantee, and is passed on to the marketing societies through their central organization, the Co-operative Marketing Association, at a charge of one half of one per cent. By arrangement with the Cocoa Marketing Board, payment of 90 per cent of the value of the cocoa stocks declared is made two weeks after declaration, and the balance is paid when the cocoa is placed on board. This system of payment has proved an important aid to co-operative development.

In urban centres the Salary Earners Thrift and Loan Society is an important type of co-operative, and the number in this class rose from 46 in 1947, to 78 in 1949. In the rural savings movement, the total of individual deposits increased from £10,824 in 1947, to about £43,000 on the 31st March, 1949.

The progress of the primary marketing societies between 1947 and 1949 has been substantial. During this period the number of societies increased from 106 to 165, and total membership from 7,948 to 3,133. The quantity of produce sold advanced from 14,451 tons to 28,000 tons. On the financial side, the paid-up share capital of the societies rose from £46,261 to £113,211, and reserves from £8,328 to £23,600. During this period, £66,013 were issued in loans and £62,257 were repaid. The amount outstanding on the 31st March, 1949, which included a carry-over from previous years, was £7,781.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

In the Northern Territories the bulk of the population is engaged in subsistence farming in self-contained village communities which offer little scope for paid employment. In Ashanti and the Colony both skilled and unskilled labour is in great demand, in the mines, on cocoa farms, on timber concessions and in commerce and trade. The outstanding characteristic of the Gold Coast, as far as the supply of labour is concerned, is that the great majority of the unskilled workers required by commerce and industry in the south are drawn from the Northern Territories and from the French colonies to the north and west.

In general, the demand for skilled and unskilled labour in the industrial and agricultural areas of Ashanti and the Colony exceeds the supply. This is especially the case with building artisans, and with unskilled workers for the mines and cocoa farms. Among other classes such as domestic servants and aspirants for clerical employment the supply exceeds the demand, although there is a shortage of qualified clerical workers.

The cost of living has risen sharply in the Gold Coast since the war and wages have accordingly been increased. The Government, which is the largest single employer of labour in the country, has generally set the standard followed by private firms and local authorities. The

Digitized by Google

minimum labourers' wage in the main towns in March, 1950, was 2s. 9d. a day. Artisans, such as carpenters and masons, commanded a wage of about 5s. a day at the same date whilst in the mines, wage rates were fixed by an arbitration award and ranged from 2s. 6d. a day for labourers, to 8s. 3d. a day for Winding Engine Drivers.

Normal hours of work for manual labour are 45 a week, overtime being paid at time and a quarter on week-days and double time on Sundays and holidays. This is the position in the Government service and in the mining industry; elsewhere, if conformity has not already been achieved, it is at least being encouraged by a competitive labour market and trade union activity.

Migrant Labour

The greater proportion of the migrant labourers is of external origin. In comparison, workers emigrating from the Gold Coast are a very small body, usually proceeding by sea to other West African colonies or going by the coast road to Nigeria.

The ambition of the migrant from the north is to earn enough in one or two seasons to allow him to return to his village equipped with presents for his family, money to buy cattle and to suffice for his marriage, and with an up-to-date knowledge of the latest amenities of the large towns. In many cases, however, there are also domestic difficulties which encourage the movement outwards, such as the congestion of population on the land, an indifferent harvest, or the irksome discipline imposed by the head of the compound.

No figures of migrants emanating from either the Northern Territories or the French colonies, are available but the following table gives the number of southbound travellers crossing the ferries from the Northern Territories into Ashanti and the Colony.

SOUTHBOUND TRAVELLERS CROSSING THE FERRIES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES INTO ASHANTI AND THE COLONY

Year	*British*	*French*	*Total*
1936/37-1938/39 (*Average*)	38,705	61,325	100,030
1946/47	83,866	50,887	134,753
1947/48	87,188	59,949	147,137
1948/49	126,751	77,817	204,568

The migrant normally takes the bulk of his earnings, either in cash or in kind, back with him. Remittances are also sent periodically in the care of friends or through the Post Office. The Labour Departments of the four West African Colonies are in constant communication regarding the welfare of migrant labourers, and they co-operate in the enforcement of the various International Labour Organization conventions to which the West African governments have subscribed.

The following table shows rates of pay for typical occupations as at the end of March, 1950 :—

Rates of Wages for Typical Occupations: March 1950

Labourer	2s. 9d. to 6s. 6d. per day
Artisan	3s. 6d. to 11s. 8d. per day
Motor Driver ..	2s. 2d. to 6s. 11d. per day
Driver/Mechanic	5s. 7d. to 7s. 8d. per day
Blacksmith ..	3s. 4d. to 5s. 4d. per day
Carpenter.. ..	4s. 0d. to 6s. 11d. per day
Clerks	£42 to £325 per annum
Cashiers	£90 to £300 per annum

Fuel and Power

Timber is the main source of fuel for local consumption. It is obtained in large part from the forest, but supplies are also provided by a number of fuelwood plantations. The consumption of wood in the form of fuelwood and charcoal is greatly in excess of 100 million cubic feet a year, and there is an urgent need for the establishment of additional fuelwood plantations, particularly near the main towns, in order to meet the heavy public demand and to enable supplies to be provided at an economic price. Difficulties over land tenure have, however, repeatedly prevented the development of fuelwood reserves. There are no coal deposits in the Gold Coast, and supplies, mainly for the railway, are imported, averaging about 93,000 tons a year.

The most important source of power is electricity, which is generated by compression ignition oil engines using imported gas oil as fuel. Supplies for Government Services and for the public are provided by the Government Electricity Department, which was established in 1947, taking over the electricity branches of the Public Works Department and the Railway Administration. The Department's power stations generated about 27 million units of electricity in the year ended the 31st March, 1950.

Details of the towns supplied by the Electricity Department and the installed capacity of the generating plant are as follows :—

GOVERNMENT ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES 1950

Town	*Installed Capacity in K.W.*	*Intended Increase in K.W.*	*Total*
Accra	3,850	3,000	6,850
Sekondi	2,320	2,550	4,870
Kumasi	500 DC	2,000 AC	2,500
Cape Coast	200	220	420
Tarkwa	—	360	360
Koforidua	125 DC	480 AC	480
Swedru-Winneba	210	—	210
Dunkwa	70	70	140
Oda	70	70	140
Tamale	100	25	125
Tafo	80 DC	35	120
Bolgatanga	—	112½	112½
Keta	—	112½	112½

N.B.—1. All the above are AC except where otherwise indicated.

2. The supply at Tamale is, and at Bolgatanga will be, 230 volt single phase 50 cycles. At all other AC stations it is, and in the case of Dunkwa, Oda and Keta will be, 400/230 volt 3 phase 50 cycles.

Digitized by Google

Some of the charges for the consumption of electricity are set out in the following table :—

TARIFF OF CHARGES FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY

Rate Description	*Consumers*	*Charges and conditions, exclusive of any maintenance unless specifically stated*
Lighting	All commercial and general lighting users (special terms for large consumers will be considered on request).	Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi and Takoradi : 10½d. per unit. Tamale : 1s. per unit. All other stations 10½d. per unit. (Minimum charge of 3s. per month.)
Domestic lighting and power	All private residences supplied through a meter.	Assessment rate of 0·7 units per 100 square feet of enclosed floor area charged at the higher rate. Any additional consumption charged at the lower rate. The two rates are as follows : Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi and Takoradi : 10½d. and 1·15d. Tamale : 1s. and 2½d. All other stations : 10½d. and 1½d. (Minimum charge of 3s. per month.)
Power	Commercial and factory users of current for other than lighting.	Fixed monthly charge of 3s. per Brake, Horse Power, or K.V.A. of plant installed, with a minimum fixed charge of 15s. per month. The current consumed will be charged as follows : Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi and Takoradi : 1·15d. per unit. Tamale : 2½d. per unit. All other stations : 1½d. per unit.

Most of the electricity generated in the Gold Coast, however, is provided by the mining industry, which had a total output in 1948 of more than 160 million units. The mining industry provides its own considerable requirements for power, and for lighting its properties whether at the mines themselves or in their residential areas and housing estates. The industry also provides some public supplies. Obuasi is supplied by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, and no Government installation there is contemplated. Although a Government power station is now being built at Tarkwa, the town was, for many years, supplied by the Amalgamated Banket Areas Limited. A certain amount of electricity is supplied to Prestea by Ariston Gold Mines, to Abosso by Taquah and Abosso Mines, and to Bibiani by Bibiani Gold Mines (1927) Limited.

The most important single proposal for the development of the resources of the Gold Coast is the scheme for harnessing the waters of the River Volta. The purpose would be to provide hydro-electrical power, large scale irrigation for agricultural purposes, water supplies for animal husbandry and for the people generally, and an additional and economical means of inland transport. Electricity generation would have, as its primary purpose, the provision of power for the extraction of alumina from bauxite. It might also be economically possible, if the technical difficulties could be overcome, to provide electricity for the main towns and the mining areas. A preliminary survey of the Volta scheme has been made in the Gold Coast by a consulting engineer, and a detailed examination of the whole development area was made by a firm of consulting engineers early in 1950. Further action awaits the publication of their report.

FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The financial history of the Gold Coast over the past 20 years is illustrated by the figures of actual revenue and expenditure for the period 1929-1952 :—

FINANCES OF THE GOLD COAST, 1929-30 TO 1951-52

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*+Surplus −Deficit*
	£	£	£
1929-30	3,397,324	3,932,023	− 534,699
1930-31	3,499,418	3,744,010	− 244,592
1931-32	2,284,299	2,823,752	− 539,453
1932-33	2,670,786	2,673,482	− 2,696
1933-34	2,684,925	2,313,096	+ 371,829
1934-35	2,778,055	2,554,039	+ 224,016
1935-36	3,268,378	3,128,606	+ 139,772
1936-37	3,774,746	3,916,992	− 142,246
1937-38	3,791,673	3,636,569	+ 155,104
1938-39	3,780,288	3,489,346	+ 290,942
1939-40	3,734,438	3,631,154	+ 103,284
1940-41	3,868,830	3,871,624	− 2,794
1941-42	4,141,186	3,598,777	+ 542,409
1942-43	4,331,894	4,153,883	+ 178,011
1943-44	4,720,394	4,560,274	+ 160,120
1944-45	5,866,665	4,534,611	+ 1,332,054
1945-46	7,171,618	6,039,855	+ 1,131,763
1946-47	7,567,589	6,630,140	+ 937,449
1947-48	10,965,604	10,965,604*	− 719,986
1948-49	11,639,324	11,487,703	+ 151,621
1949-50	18,106,495	14,143,541	+3,962,954
1950-51‡	20,564,750	18,615,190	+1,949,560
1951-52†	20,575,340	26,767,720	−6,192,380

N.B.—Figures of Expenditure from 1945-46 inclusive include Development Expenditure.

* Includes £1 million transferred to the Supplementary Sinking Fund.

† Approved Estimate. ‡ Revised Estimate.

Digitized by Google

Details of revenue and expenditure in the financial years since 1947-48 are compared in the following tables with the corresponding figures for 1938-39 :—

REVENUE OF THE GOLD COAST, 1938-39 AND 1948-49, 1949-50 AND 1951-52

Head of Revenue	1938-39		1948-49		1949-50		1951-52†	
	Amount £	%	*Amount* £	%	*Amount* £	%	*Amount* £	%
Customs and Excise	2,694,959	71·29	5,616,838	48·26	11,069,271	61·13	11,042,600	53·67
Harbour and Light Dues*	40,347	1·07	37,969	0·33	48,116	·27	—	—
Direct Taxation	—	—	3,046,460	26·17	3,669,641	20·27	5,650,000	27·46
Licences, etc.	308,628	8·16	356,849	3·07	404,148	2·23	412,370	2·00
Fees of Court, etc.	300,853	7·96	864,498	7·43	909,265	5·02	1,112,520	5·41
Post and Telegraphs	133,331	3·53	385,805	3·31	407,977	2·25	500,800	2·43
Rents of Government Property	23,419	0·62	89,896	0·77	112,049	·62	134,260	·65
Interest and Loan Repayments	148,512	3·93	501,046	4·30	515,399	2·84	621,070	3·02
Miscellaneous	32,634	0·86	519,344	4·46	614,719	3·40	51,500	·25
Total Ordinary Revenue	3,682,683	97·42	11,418,705	98·10	17,750,585	98·03	19,525,120	94·89
Land Sales	1,023	0·03	1	—	—	—	—	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	—	—	219,720	1·89	355,910	1·97	232,620	1·13
Investments	—	—	898	·01	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous‡	96,582	2·55	—	—	—	—	817,600	3·98
Total Revenue	3,780,288	100·00	11,639,324	100·00	18,106,495	100·00	20,575,340	100·00

* w.e.f. 1951-52. Harbour Lights and Dues payable to Railway Administration.

† Approved Estimate.

‡ 1938–39 : Includes Colonial Development Fund £53,838.
1951-52 : Grant from Cocoa Marketing Board.

EXPENDITURE OF GOLD COAST, 1938-39 AND 1948-49, 1949-50 AND 1951-52

Purpose	1938-39		1948-49		1949-50		1951-52*	
	Amount	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%
	£		£		£		£	
Recurrent Expenditure								
Basic Services	452,803	12·97	1,642,693	14·30	1,731,254	12·24	2,377,920	8·88
Administration	795,535	22·80	2,377,406	20·70	1,977,333	13·98	2,901,280	10·84
Social Services	621,451	17·81	1,698,224	14·78	1,888,043	13·35	2,932,890	10·96
Economic Services	181,011	5·19	843,246	7·34	982,584	6·95	1,630,110	6·09
Pensions and Debt Payments	366,662	10·51	941,736	8·20	961,517	6·80	1,091,210	4·08
Public Order and Defence	311,090	8·92	903,894	7·87	1,053,955	7·45	1,247,410	4·66
Subventions and Local Loans	—	—	97,030	0·84	937,859	6·63	1,393,000	5·20
Miscellaneous	111,680	3·20	436,477	3·80	706,607	4·99	36,160	·14
Contribution to Development Fund	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,532,620	9·46
Total Recurrent Expenditure	2,840,232	81·40	8,940,706	77·83	10,238,152	72·39	16,142,600	60·31
Extraordinary Expenditure								
Basic Services	435,303	12·48	534,284	4·65	619,530	4·38	828,000	3·09
Administration	48,907	1·40	49,778	0·43	73,041	·52	1,286,190	4·81
Social Services	13,262	0·38	203,568	1·76	386,230	2·73	107,560	·40
Economic Services	37,227	1·07	37,059	0·32	541,625	3·83	1,566,860	5·85
Public Order and Defence	14,215	0·41	30,182	0·26	71,305	·50	71,610	·27
Local Loans	200	—	383,225	3·36	302,400	2·14	48,850	·18
Total Extraordinary Expenditure	549,114	15·74	1,238,096	10·78	1,994,131	14·10	3,909,070	14·60
Development Expenditure								
From excess of Assets over Liabilities	—	—	1,308,901	11·39	1,911,258	13·51	6,716,050	25·09
Special Expenditure								
Supplementary Sinking Fund	100,000	2·86	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Expenditure	3,489,346	100·00	11,487,703	100·00	14,143,541	100·00	26,767,720	100·00

* Approved Estimate.

Digitized by Google

The Public Debt of the Gold Coast at 31st March, 1949, amounted to £6,475,514 : the Sinking Fund including the Supplementary Sinking Fund totalled over £2,975,000.

The estimated financial position at the 31st March, 1951, was as follows :—

Estimated Financial Position as at the 31st March, 1951.

Excess of Assets over liabilities at the 1st April, 1950		£8,833,937
Revised Estimates of Revenue, 1950–51	£20,564,750	
Revised Estimates of Expenditure, 1950–51 (from Revenue)		
(*a*) Ordinary	£11,658,440	
(*b*) Extraordinary	£3,984,710	
	£15,643,150	
Surplus		£4,921,600
Estimated Development expenditure, 1950–51 (from excess of assets over liabilities)		£2,972,040
Estimated excess of assets over liabilities at the 31st March, 1951		£10,783,497

The main source of revenue is customs duties, but the revenue system was greatly strengthened by the introduction of income tax in 1944, which provided an additional and substantial source of Government income. Customs and Excise Duties provided 61 per cent of the actual ordinary revenue for 1949-50 compared with 20 per cent provided by direct taxation.

No detailed analysis of the burden of taxation on the various groups in the community has yet been made, but it is possible to obtain a general picture from the official revenue figures. The following table shows the import and export duties collected during the calendar year 1950, with the principal individual items listed :—

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES COLLECTED IN 1950

Class and Principal Items	*Duty Collected*		*Percentage of total Customs and Excise Revenue*	
IMPORTS	£	£		
Class I. Food, Drink and Tobacco				
(*a*) Ale, Beer, Stout and Porter	374,045		3·15	
(*b*) Spirits—Potable (all kinds)	518,606		4·36	
(*c*) Tobacco, manufactured	1,819,248		15·31	
(*d*) Tobacco, unmanufactured	286,369		2·41	
(*e*) Other Class I	216,546		1·82	
Total Class I		3,214,814		27·05
Class II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured		7,587		·06
Class III. Textiles, metals and miscellaneous				
(*a*) Cotton manufactures : piece goods	1,022,131		8·60	
(*b*) Other textiles	532,641		4·48	
(*c*) Iron and steel manufactures	49,321		·41	
(*d*) Oils : gas, illuminating, lubricating and motor spirit	967,217		8·14	
(*e*) Other Class III	1,214,222		10·22	
Total Class III		3,785,532		31·85
Class V. Bullion, specie and currency notes		1,673		·01
Parcel post and overland imports		126,709		1·07
Total Import Duties		7,136,315		60·04
EXPORTS				
(*a*) Cocoa	3,917,805		32·96	
(*b*) Diamonds	114,840		·96	
(*c*) Manganese	202,976		1·7	
(*d*) Timber : all kinds	89,200		·75	
(*e*) Kola Nuts	353		—	
Overland Exports	364,813		3·07	
Total Export Duties		4,689,987		39·45
EXCISE				
Beer		60,165		·51
Total Import, Export and Excise Duties		11,886,467		100·00

Essential imports are free of duty and the incidence of taxation in dutiable imports is determined by the consumption of such imports. By reason of the large number of persons concerned in the cocoa industry the incidence of the duty is widespread. Export duties on minerals and timber, however, fall mainly on overseas companies at present although as African participation in these industries increases their share of taxation will rise.

The principal direct tax, that on incomes, falls mainly on commercial concerns and mining companies, and the greater part of the tax is paid by overseas enterprises. A substantial contribution is made by the salaried and wage earning community.

An analysis of assessments for the year 1948-49 is shown below :—

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS, 1948-1949

	No. of Assessments raised	*Chargeable Income*	*Tax*
		£	£
Employees :			
Official	1,187	614,720	21,707
Other	2,353	1,250,433	110,108
Trades and Professions :			
Individuals	958	1,108,949	136,275
Companies	112	6,684,931	2,561,902
Miscellaneous	293	61,685	1,515
	4,903	9,720,718	2,831,507

Digitized by Google

Income tax was first imposed by Ordinance No. 27 of 1943, and took effect from 1st April, 1944, the first year of assessment being the year ended the 31st March, 1945. Income liable to tax is that which accrues in or is derived from the Gold Coast, irrespective of residence, and also that which arises outside the Gold Coast and is received in the Gold Coast by a resident of the Gold Coast.

Income tax is payable for each year of assessment ending the 31st March. The basis of assessment is normally the income of the preceding year, but special provisions apply to the years in which income from employment and trade begins or ends. Tax is calculated on chargeable income, arrived at after all deductions and allowances have been taken off the gross income, at the rates shown in the following table :—

Calculation of Income Tax

Taxation rates according to different categories

(*a*) *Individuals and bodies of persons :—*

Chargeable Income		*Rate of Tax*
		£ s. d.
For every pound of the first	£200	0 0 3
,, ,, next	£200	0 0 6
,, ,, ,,	£200	0 0 9
,, ,, ,,	£200	0 1 0
,, ,, ,,	£400	0 2 0
,, ,, ,,	£800	0 3 0
,, ,, ,,	£1,000	0 4 0
,, ,, ,,	£1,000	0 5 0
,, ,, ,,	£1,000	0 6 0
,, ,, ,,	£5,000	0 7 6
exceeding	£10,000	0 10 0

(*b*) *Companies incorporated or registered under any law in force in the Gold Coast or elsewhere : 7s. 6d. in the £.*

With effect from the year of assessment 1949–50, companies incorporated and controlled in the Gold Coast on or after the 1st April, 1944, which make annual profits not exceeding £3,000, qualify for relief from tax for the first six years of assessment. Relief is given on the first £1,000 at the full rate of tax for the first two years, two-thirds of the full rate for the next two years, and one-third of the full rate for the next two years. Where the income exceeds £1,000 but does not exceed £3,000, the amount of income qualifying for relief is reduced by one-half of the excess of such income over £1,000.

(*c*) *Profits derived from mining operations carried on under the provisions of the Concessions Ordinance, the Minerals Ordinance or any agreement with the Government : 1s. in the £ in addition to the rates specified in (a) and (b) above.*

The principal allowances which may be claimed by an individual by reference to his circumstances in the year preceding the year of assessment, follow the United Kingdom pattern.

Native Authorities

There are 94 Native Authorities, each with its own treasury, of which 47 are in the Colony, 35 in Ashanti and 12 in the Northern Territories. Their main sources of revenue are the annual direct tax, land rents and charges, fees and tolls, and licences. In addition, they receive grants-in-aid from the central Government based, in the main, on the amount of revenue they raise by direct taxation. During the 1949–50 financial year, grants-in-aid for allocation to Native Authorities totalled £350,000 of which £167,000 was for the Colony, £119,000 for Ashanti, and £64,000 for the Northern Territories. A large proportion of these sums was devoted to development projects. Other grants made by the central Government include those in respect of educational services and others for works carried out by the Native Authorities on its behalf.

The introduction of direct taxation by Native Authorities, and its general adoption throughout the country, has been an important step in the development of responsible local government. The tax is paid by those subject to the jurisdiction of Native Authorities and is levied at a flat rate on all able-bodied men and women. The amount of the rate varies between different states, and it is now customary for chiefs and elders to pay a higher annual rate than other men and women. The amount of the rate is fixed each year by the Native Authorities at their annual estimates meetings. The estimates are subject to approval by the central Government.

An example of an annual tax assessment by a Native Authority, for the years 1949–50, is outlined in the following table :—

An Annual Tax Assessment by a Native Authority

Tax payable by	*Amount*
	£ s. d.
Konor (paramount Chief)	12 0 0
Divisional Chief	5 0 0
Jasetse	2 0 0
Asafoatse-Ngua	1 10 0
Asafoatse	0 15 0
Stool Elder or Councillor	0 12 0
Sarikin Zogo or Linguist	0 10 0
Man	0 4 0
Woman	0 2 0

The following persons are exempt :—

(i) All persons regularly attending a school or other educational establishment ;

(ii) All persons below the age of 18 years or above the age of 70 years ; and

(iii) All persons who, by reason of infirmity, are unable to do any work.

In many states considerably higher rates are paid by ordinary men and women, but even at the low rates indicated there is, in some states, opposition to payment.

The following table summarizes the revenue and expenditure of Native Authorities for selected years to the 31st March, 1949 :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF NATIVE AUTHORITIES

Year	*Colony*		*Ashanti*		*Northern Territories*		*Total*	
	Revenue	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
1938-39	47,599	46,687	27,994	26,980	65,324	60,506	140,917	134,173
1944-45	242,563	229,390	109,920	87,207	105,035	92,504	457,418	409,101
1945-46	293,194	287,829	167,035	173,576	132,727	114,950	592,956	540,355
1946-47	373,974	366,375	264,500	235,476	133,737	136,856	772,211	738,707
1947-48	460,902	465,301	343,489	307,774	266,535	185,484	1,070,926	958,559
1948-49	625,324	569,713	468,673	387,413	302,929	254,327	1,396,926	1,211,453

Digitized by Google

The pattern of Native Authorities' expenditure during 1947–48, in its broad outlines, is shown in the following table:—

PATTERN OF EXPENDITURE BY NATIVE AUTHORITIES, 1947-48

	Colony		*Ashanti*		*Northern Territories*	
	Amount	*Percentage of total expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage of total expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage of total expenditure*
	£		£		£	
1. Administration (including Police and Treasury)	146,854	31·6	85,482	27·8	23,699	12·8
2. Native Courts	37,728	8·1	20,561	6·7	1,861	1·0
3. Health	36,687	7·9	16,604	5·4	13,254	7·1
4. Education	87,619	18·8	61,759	20·1	21,569	11·6
5. Recurrent works, communications and services	31,466	6·8	18,751	6·1	60,016	32·4
	340,354	73·2	203,157	66·1	120,399	64·9
6. Other Items	124,947	26·8	104,617	33·9	65,085	35·1
Total Expenditure	465,301	100·0	307,774	100·0	185,484	100·0

Town Councils

The principal sources of revenue for town councils are rates, licences, revenue-earning services (among which the bus services are the most profitable) grants-in-aid from the central Government for work performed as its agents, and loans. The rates in force in 1949 were 2s. 6d. in the pound in Accra, 2s. in Kumasi, 1s. 7d. in Cape Coast, and 1s. 6d. in Sekondi-Takoradi. The central Government makes a contribution to the councils in lieu of rates. For the 1949–50 financial year bus services are expected to show a profit of about £53,000 in Accra, £13,000 in Kumasi, and £12,000 in Sekondi-Takoradi.

A summary of the revenue and expenditure of the four town councils in recent years is given in the following table :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF TOWN COUNCILS

	Accra		*Kumasi*		*Sekondi-Takoradi*		*Cape Coast*		*Total*	
	Revenue	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*
1938–39	64,288	53,775	54,759	64,285	13,778	14,199	12,232	12,754	144,997	143,013
1944–45	127,815	122,769	73,651	65,852	13,603	14,844	12,352	12,289	227,421	220,754
1945–46	159,217	144,494	84,123	81,475	27,306	31,280	12,903	12,193	283,549	269,140
1946–47	163,960	156,078	103,725	109,193	32,629	34,291	13,447	13,309	313,761	306,871
1947–48	220,810	210,400	173,999	169,980	64,720	58,020	22,286	23,715	484,415	462,115
1948–49	244,486	245,377	209,017	201,447	82,198	78,592	22,552	21,805	558,253	545,221

Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is issued by the West African Currency Board in London on behalf of the four West African colonies. It consists of notes of twenty shillings and ten shillings denominations ; copper-alloy coins of florin, shilling and sixpence denominations ; and nickel-bronze coins of threepence, penny, half-penny and tenth-penny denominations. The currency is interchangeable with sterling at par (subject to remittance charges). Currency is issued to the Bank of British West Africa or Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) as it is required, against payment to the West African Currency Board in London or against a deposit of currency of equivalent value with the agents of the West African Currency Board in one of the other West African colonies.

The following table shows the estimated amount of currency in circulation at 31st March, 1939, and at the end of each of the last eight financial years :—

VOLUME OF CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

Date	*Amount* £	*Index* 31.3.39=100
31st March, 1939 ..	5,514,709	100
31st March, 1945 ..	9,750,664	177
31st March, 1946 ..	11,180,303	203
31st March, 1947 ..	14,279,509	259
31st March, 1948 ..	18,864,828	342
31st March, 1949 ..	31,602,367	573
31st March, 1950 ..	29,813,516	541
31st March, 1951 ..	33,424,000	606

These figures are based on net issues of currency by the Currency Officer and include amounts held by the Banks, and therefore not in active circulation. Normally Banks' cash holdings are a small proportion of currency issued based on crop and price fluctuations. The volume of currency in active circulation at 31st March in recent years may be estimated as follows :—

	£000
1949	22,357
1950	21,921
1951	28,698

The large increase in the volume of currency in circulation in 1949 and 1951 was due to the high prices paid by the Marketing Board for cocoa purchased in the 1948-49 and 1950-51 seasons which resulted in payments of almost £33 million to cocoa farmers in the 1948-49 season and about £34 million in 1950-51.

The purchase of the cocoa crop during the period September to March normally results in a strong seasonal movement of currency. The majority of purchases are complete by December during which time the volume of currency in circulation rises rapidly. Thereafter cash tends to return to the banks through purchases of consumer goods from the commercial firms. The following table shows the changes in currency in active circulation during the 1949-50 and 1950-51 crop seasons :—

CHANGES IN THE VOLUME OF CURRENCY IN ACTIVE CIRCULATION SEPTEMBER-MARCH, 1949-50 AND 1950-51

	1949-50	1950-51
	£000	£000
September ..	−1,112	+1,972
October	+3,185	+3,708
November.. ..	+4,434	+6,338
December ..	+2,401	+4,227
January	− 289	+ 690
February	−2,239	−2,142
March	−1,834	−2,313
Net change .. + (increase) — (decrease)	+4,546	+12,480

Digitized by Google

Financial institutions

There are two banks in operation, the Bank of British West Africa and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

Both banks have branches at Accra, Dunkwa, Sweden, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi and Tarkwa, and the Bank of British West Africa also has branches at Cape Coast, Oda, Winneba, Obuasi and Koforidua.

Loan and credit facilities

Members of co-operative societies may obtain loans from their primaries or unions, or, through them, from the Co-operative Bank Limited. Loans for the establishment or expansion of local industries are made by the Gold Coast Industrial Development Corporation, and, for large-scale agricultural operations by the Agricultural Development Corporation, while an ordinance was enacted in December, 1950, to provide for the establishment of an Agricultural Loans Board to provide credit facilities for farmers and to assist them in redeeming mortgages and farm debts. Loans to finance economic development may also be obtained through Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited, which was formed in 1946.

Post Office Savings Bank and the Savings movement

There has been a steady expansion of the balances deposited with the Post Office Savings Bank during the past ten years, although the net amounts saved, particularly in the past two years, have been small in relation to the increase in the amount of currency in circulation. The number of accounts remaining open on the 31st March, 1951, was 361,000, an increase of 53,000 over the previous year. A comparative statement of Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals for the years 1939-40 to 1948-49 is to be found in the following table :—

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS

Source: Post Office Savings Bank

Year	*Balance*	*Deposits including interest*	*Amount withdrawn including interest*	*Balance*
	£	£	£	£
1939–40	275,842	167,412	148,665	294,589
1940–41	294,589	172,303	148,595	318,297
1941–42	318,297	308,014	170,865	455,446
1942–43	455,446	529,483	259,415	725,514
1943–44	725,514	824,825	419,187	1,131,152
1944–45	1,131,152	954,926	544,103	1,541,975
1945–46	1,541,975	1,513,923	868,124	2,187,774
1946–47	2,187,774	2,188,844	1,862,346	2,514,272
1947–48	2,514,272	1,747,179	1,203,977	3,057,474
1948–49	3,057,474	2,254,636	1,437,961	3,874,149*

* Estimated.

Private Investment

At the end of 1948 there were approximately 323 limited liability companies operating in the Gold Coast, and of these 146 had registered offices overseas and 177 were registered in the Gold Coast. In addition, there were about 1,600 small businesses and traders registered under the Business Names Ordinance.

Standard and Cost of Living

Under present conditions it is impossible to provide any detailed information on the existing standard and cost of living.

The picture over the past ten years is one of a continuing, and, in recent years, substantial increase in the general cost of living. This was an inevitable result of shortages of consumer goods during and since the war, although by 1948 most imports had exceeded their 1938 volume ; of increased production costs in the exporting countries ; of the post-war boom in the world prices of cocoa and other primary products, with a consequent increase in the amount of money in circulation.

It is unlikely that the cost of living will decline to any marked extent until the supply of foodstuffs, both imported and locally produced, has been substantially increased. A vigorous campaign to increase local food production has been in progress under a Commissioner for Food Production, and a bulk purchase scheme has been introduced with prices for certain staple foodstuffs guaranteed by the Government.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The following table shows the trend in visible trade during the period from 1935 :—

BALANCE OF TRADE: 1939-1950

Year	*Total Imports*	*Re-exports*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*
	£	£	£	£	£
1935	7,375,935	73,702	7,302,233	9,240,894	1,938,661
1936	8,530,890	96,879	8,434,011	12,239,952	3,805,941
1937	12,306,755	174,392	12,132,363	15,949,533	3,817,170
1938	7,657,734	195,998	7,461,736	11,079,870	3,618,134
1939	7,318,454	196,258	7,122,196	12,747,258	5,625,062
1940	6,877,736	177,699	6,700,037	13,478,990	6,778,953
1941	6,137,223	205,333	5,931,890	12,833,887	6,901,997
1942	8,731,779	617,930	8,113,849	11,504,227	3,390,378
1943	8,598,349	693,199	7,905,150	11,925,470	4,020,320
1944	8,579,675	476,890	8,102,785	11,782,028	3,679,243
1945	10,206,861	414,873	9,791,988	15,180,802	5,388,814
1946	12,861,143	486,250	12,374,893	19,655,802	7,280,909
1947	21,843,129	414,326	21,428,803	21,489,980	61,177
1948	30,113,665	798,084	29,315,581	32,906,135	3,590,554
1949	44,433,772	853,098	43,580,674	47,236,276	3,655,602
1950	45,869,440	1,097,218	44,772,222	70,338,177	25,560,955

Notes

(1) The table above is based on the Annual Trade Reports of the Gold Coast. 1950 figures are provisional.

(2) The figures shown are inclusive of imports and exports of bullion, but exclusive of imports and re-exports of specie and currency notes. Imports of bullion, for non-monetary purposes, are small, but

Digitized by Google

exports of newly mined gold and silver, especially the former, are substantial.

(3) A minor amount of unrecorded trade across the northern land frontiers is excluded from the above table.

(4) Imports are valued c.i.f., and exports f.o.b., with the exception of cocoa between 1939 and 1948, and of palm products, groundnuts and oilseeds, between 1947 and 1949. These were valued at the prices paid to producers plus costs to the f.o.b. stage ("f.o.b. cost price"), and not at world prices ("f.o.b. selling price"). Differences between the two sets of prices give rise to what may be called the "export produce differential," which may be either positive or negative, but which, in fact, during the years in question, was usually positive and requires therefore to be added to the stated value of domestic exports and to the export surplus. The export produce differentials are not identical with the surpluses realized (or deficits incurred) by the Marketing Boards responsible for trade in the commodities in question, though the latter may be taken as roughly approximate to the former. Responsibility for the trade in cocoa was transferred as from 1st October, 1947, from the West African Produce Control Board to the newly-formed Gold Coast Cocoa Marketing Board; export produce differentials in respect of cocoa recorded since that date to the end of 1948 are as follows:—

1947 (October to December) ..	£5,277,030
1948 (full year)	£21,838,868

Surpluses accruing to the Gold Coast from the operations of the Marketing Boards, to the end of 1949, totalled some £38 million, of which nearly £24 million was realized in the season 1947-48. In the earlier years, to 1945, surpluses averaged roughly £1½ million annually. Where actual figures for the "export produce differential" are not available, these surpluses require to be taken into account in estimating the true net earnings from visible trade and the balance of payments of the Gold Coast. Exports for 1950 include the export produce differential.

Digitized by Google

The following tables provide a comparative analysis of external trade :—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE (F.O.B.), 1938, 1948 AND 1949 SHOWING MAIN DESTINATIONS

Article	*Unit*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000*
CLASS I										
Cocoa	tons	263,229	4,540,899	U.K. (1,771), U.S.A. (822), Germany (764).	214,302	42,165,916†	U.S.A. (14,332), U.K. (11,810), U.S.S.R. (2,490)	263,602	34,018,871‡	U.S.A. (9,853), U.K. (8,900), Netherlands (3,180).
Coffee, raw	,,	21	760		524	32,298	U.K. (32)	209	12,815	U.K. (9).
Kola Nuts*	,,	4,102	88,334		5,799	134,420		5,924	134,715	
CLASS II										
Bauxite	,,	—	—		130,953	259,149	U.K. (all)	145,013	274,857	U.K. (all).
Manganese	,,	324,207	907,972	U.S.A. (493), Norway (239), U.K. (91).	629,973	2,698,706	U.S.A. (1,164), U.K. (956), Norway (475)	741,069	4,006,079	U.S.A. (2,132), U.K. (1,261), Norway (532).
Diamonds	carat	1,296,763	548,027	U.K. (all).	878,092	976,060	U.K. (all)	963,435	1,390,636	U.K. (all).
Timber	cu. ft.	696,599	77,026	U.K. (51), U.S.A. (25).	7,095,671	2,453,403	U.S.A. (1,430), U.K. (891) ..	7,539,627	2,165,551	U.K. (1,409), U.S.A. (495).
Palm Kernels	tons	5,193	39,631	U.K. (14), Netherlands (13).	7,139	165,121	U.K. (156)	2,895	69,180	U.K. (61).
CLASS V										
Gold	fine oz.	677,480	4,841,633	U.K. (all).	670,645	5,754,021	U.K. (all)	656,431	6,413,825	U.K. (all).

* Mainly exports from Northern Territories to unspecified destinations.
† Includes the surplus accruing from Marketing Board's activities amounting to £21,838,868.
‡ ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, £1,484,026 in respect of the period 1st Jan.-7th March. Remainder of the surplus is embodied in the value shown.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE (C.I.F.) FOR 1938, 1948 AND 1949, SHOWING MAIN SOURCES

Article	*Unit*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value £*	*Principal countries of origin, with amounts in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value £*	*Principal countries of origin with amounts in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value £*	*Principal countries of origin, with amounts in £000*
CLASS I										
Animals and birds living* ..	No.	142,623	237,538		287,444	1,300,692		311,327	1,071,337	
Grain, flour, pulses, etc. :										
Rice	tons	11,423	117,657	Burma (61), India (42).	532	3,995	French Togoland (all)	815	27,793	Egypt (22), French Togoland (3).
Other Grain	,,	365	2,275	French Togoland (2).	684	5,483	French Togoland (all)	364	3,513	French Togoland (2).
Wheat Flour	,,	6,840	121,351	U.S.A. (113), Canada (5).	7,373	395,523	U.S.A. (308), Canada (1) ..	19,581	956,517	U.S.A. (787), Canada (170).
Pulses	,,	1,318	11,673	Nigeria (8), French Togoland (2).	718	6,517	French Togoland (6)	491	7,284	French Togoland (5).
Fish :										
Canned	,,	3,388	143,541	Japan (71), Portugal (21).	1,288	248,137	Canada (100), Portugal (87), U.S.A. (35).	2,216	428,945	Portugal (200), Canada (51), U.S.A. (44).
Dried, salted	,,	2,618	75,746	Canary Is. (49), French Togoland (9), Ivory Coast (6).	2,950	298,584	Newfoundland (89), French Togoland (150), Canary Is. (31), Ivory Coast (14).	1,545	183,342	Newfoundland (97), French Togoland (34), Canary Is. (24), U.K. (9), Ivory Coast (8).
Meats :										
Canned, bottled	,,	509	30,496	Argentina (23).	367	62,910	Australia (55), Canada (6) ..	1,837	342,678	Australia (304), Kenya (14), U.K. (10), Denmark (6).
Beef and pork, pickled or salted	,,	2,024	48,150	Denmark (34), Argentina (13).	649	67,287	Canada (40), Australia (13) ..	1,085	117,885	Canada (58), Australia (31), New Zealand (11), Denmark (11).
Other foods :										
Milk, condensed	,,	635	28,259	Netherlands (22), U.K. (5).	1,701	223,737	Netherlands (125), U.S.A. (48), Denmark (30), Australia (18)	2,136	271,877	Netherlands (268), U.K. (3).
Sugar	,,	6,227	91,875	Czechoslovakia (49), U.K. (42).	5,943	338,103	U.K. (316), France (22) ..	12,542	748,416	U.K. (748).
Beer and Spirits :										
Ale, beer, stout, etc.	gallons	613,208	88,095	Germany (59), Netherlands (13), U.K. (12).	1,024,147	350,980	Netherlands (254), Denmark (37), Germany (29), U.K. (28).	2,754,011	974,260	Netherlands (655), U.K. (171), Denmark (50), Germany (34).
Whisky	,,	46,756	54,204	U.K. (54).	33,283	53,825	U.K. (52).	36,093	60,253	U.K. (58).
Gin	,,	49,780	26,427	Netherlands (14), U.K. (12).	71,851	84,974	Netherlands (53), U.K. (32) ..	72,172	81,235	Netherlands (51), U.K. (30).
Other potable spirits ..	,,	11,237	11,038	France (4), Cuba (2).	49,197	89,912	France (35), Trinidad (24), U.K. (15).	79,342	126,657	Trinidad (49), France (35), U.K. (22).
Tobacco :										
Cigarettes	tons	973	107,305	U.K. (206).	412	453,339	U.K. (453)	773	927,010	U.K. (927).
Unmanufactured tobacco ..	,,	624	71,222	U.S.A. (71).	645	211,660	U.S.A. (208)	768	302,753	U.S.A. (297).
CLASS II										
Coal	,,	68,575	103,650	Nigeria (79), U.K. (23).	98,781	358,160	Nigeria (239), U.K. (85) ..	129,767	532,882	U.K. (520), Nigeria (8).
Lime	,,	3,279	17,431	U.K. (16).	4,656	56,571	U.K. (52)	2,930	42,053	U.K. (all).
Tar	gallons	542,930	15,370	U.K. (15).	674,904	82,289	U.K. (80)	902,280	71,191	U.K. (all).
CLASS III										
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods :										
Printed	sq. yds.	15,992,692	454,072	U.K. (326), Netherlands (81), Switzerland (29).	36,897,733	4,204,581	U.K. (2,867), Netherlands (860), Germany (197), U.S.A. (127).	62,359,741	6,757,880	U.K. (4,632), Netherlands (1,111) Germany (431), Japan (161).
Dyed in the piece	,,	6,009,718	158,000	U.K. (101), Italy (29), Nigeria (28).	9,292,423	999,891	U.K. (489), Germany (251), India (89), Belgium (34), U.S.A. (32).	11,283,606	1,242,956	U.K. (805), Germany (149), India (110), Italy (79), Japan (40).
Coloured	,,	2,542,110	75,650	U.K. (43), Italy (10), Belgium (6)	5,829,126	684,149	U.K. (256), Germany (184), Belgium (89), Netherlands (55).	11,046,555	1,204,387	Germany (465), U.K. (443), Belgium (80), Italy (75).
White bleached	,,	3,566,685	71,354	U.K. (56), Italy (8), Japan (5)..	6,232,846	535,863	U.K. (200), Germany (177), U.S.A. (36), Poland (30).	9,223,455	767,374	U.K. (445), Germany (129), Japan (118), Italy (48).
Grey, unbleached	,,	2,582,142	36,452	Germany (10), China (10), U.K. (9).	4,037,560	275,346	Germany (118), U.K. (56), India (42), U.S.A. (24).	8,952,180	597,021	Japan (247), India (220), U.K. (62), Germany (51).
Towels	,,	608,323	20,078	U.K. (18)	830,653	151,783	U.K. (54), Netherlands (34), U.S.A. (22).	1,290,120	198,763	U.K. (123), Japan (25), Netherlands (23), Germany (17).

Digitized by Google

Art Silk Manufactures : Piece goods	sq. yds.	2,118,782	101,372	Czechoslovakia (48), Italy (12), Japan (21), U.K. (11).	3,057,938	553,025	U.K. (345), Czechoslovakia (128), Italy (35), Germany (21)	10,388,948	1,673,597	U.K. (494), Czechoslovakia (458), Japan (367), Germany (209).
Apparel :										
Hats, caps, etc.	No.	127,805	37,759	U.K. (16), Japan (12)	265,554	48,016	U.K. (24), France (9), Italy (8)	571,740	59,582	U.K. (35), Italy (9), France (7).
Boots and shoes	pair	215,427	30,641	U.K. (14), Japan (9), Czechoslovakia (5).	392,556	191,256	Czechoslovakia (88), U.K. (81)	704,610	272,204	Czechoslovakia (127), U.K. (103).
Shirts	No.	339,552	26,637	Hong Kong (12), U.K. (8) ..	499,059	151,818	U.K. (84), Hong Kong (32), Czechoslovakia (15).	439,525	92,820	U.K. (51), Hong Kong (16), Japan (15).
Machinery :										
Mining and Gold dredging ..	—	—	867,117	U.K. (682), U.S.A. (122), Germany (32), Belgium (21).	—	907,549	U.K. (817), S. Africa (48), U.S.A. (35).	—	855,174	U.K. (708), U.S.A. (91), S. Africa (46).
Electrical	—	—	206,962	U.K. (204)	—	259,169	U.K. (244), U.S.A. (11) ..	—	342,167	U.K. (329), Switzerland (6), U.S.A. (6).
Industrial	—	—	52,358	U.K. (45), Germany (2), U.S.A. (2).	—	601,177	U.K. (478), U.S.A. (83) ..	—	859,477	U.K. (656), U.S.A. (158), Switzerland (16).
Sewing	—	—	6,813	Germany (5), U.K. (1) ..	—	84,464	U.K. (73), Germany (6) ..	—	241,899	U.K. (188), Hungary (32), Italy (8).
Agricultural	—	—	1,201	U.K. (1)	—	17,364	U.K. (13), S. Africa (3) ..	—	31,355	U.K. (22), U.S.A. (7).
Iron and Steel Manufactures :										
Corrugated Iron Sheets ..	tons	1,596	34,047	U.K. (28), Belgium (5) ..	1,327	128,281	Belgium (92), U.K. (35) ..	8,302	789,240	Belgium (482), Japan (202), U.K. (105).
Vehicles and parts :										
Locomotives	No.	18	49,010	U.K. (48)	13	41,631	U.K. (all)	27	269,502	U.K. (all).
Locomotive parts	—	—	27,458	U.K. (24), Germany (3) ..	—	73,654	U.K. (68), U.S.A. (3)	—	66,098	U.K. (64), U.S.A. (1).
Rail wagons and trucks ..	No.	832	165,567	U.K. (165)	516	114,340	U.K. (114)	526	162,594	U.K. (140), Belgium (21).
Commercial motor cars ..	,,	71	12,830	U.S.A. (5), Canada (5), U.K. (2)	687	387,283	U.K. (338), U.S.A. (28) ..	1,541	673,259	U.K. (621), U.S.A. (32).
,, ,, ,, parts	—	—	46,401	U.S.A. (27), U.K. (10), Germany (5).	—	302,555	U.K. (203), U.S.A. (89) ..		413,614	U.K. (286), U.S.A. (116).
Chassis with engine and tyres	No.	408	48,928	U.S.A. (31), Germany (12) ..	2,131	982,576	U.K. (839), Canada (79), U.S.A. (61).	1,360	666,598	U.K. (647), Canada (12), U.S.A. (7).
Private cars	,,	409	62,560	U.S.A. (23), U.K. (21), Canada (10), Germany (8).	1,513	580,380	U.K. (517), U.S.A. (44) ..	1,933	791,449	U.K. (618), U.S.A. (138).
,, ,, parts	—	—	3,808	U.K. (2)	—	38,506	U.K. (21), U.S.A. (15) ..	—	56,041	U.K. (47), U.S.A. (7).
Tractors	No.	5	3,199	U.K. (1), U.S.A. (1)	105	220,962	U.S.A. (112), U.K. (109) ..	51	80,721	U.S.A. (40), U.K. (24).
Cycles and tricycles	,,	1,539	6,685	U.K. (5), Germany (1) ..	25,382	214,393	U.K. (213)	48,084	403,300	U.K. (402).
Tyres and Tubes :										
Outer covers	No.	35,747	79,513	U.K. (32), Canada (28), U.S.A. (13).	130,556	462,089	U.K. (230), U.S.A. (66), Canada (61), France (50), Italy (49).	59,977	302,513	U.K. (256), Italy (30), France (9), U.S.A. (5).
Inner tubes	,,	43,086	9,085	U.K. (3), Canada (2), U.S.A. (2)	166,295	58,994	U.K. (31), Italy (6), Canada (5), U.S.A. (5).	36,476	21,816	U.K. (20).
Oils :										
Motor spirit	gallons	8,070,388	194,145	U.S.A. (99), Dutch W. Indies (91)	13,850,359	535,652	Dutch W. Indies (210), British W. Indies (162), U.S.A. (118).	15,694,545	628,181	Dutch W. Indies (262), British W. Indies (164), U.S.A. (158).
Fuel	,,	13,795,065	181,199	Dutch W. Indies (186), U.S.A. (13).	18,378,647	733,464	Dutch W. Indies (488), U.S.A. (152), British W. Indies (73).	18,401,682	580,381	Dutch W. Indies (297), U.S.A. (99), Italy (83), British W. Indies (60).
Illuminating	,,	3,051,523	65,897	Dutch W. Indies (35), U.S.A. (30).	3,820,634	151,150	U.S.A. (69), British W. Indies (57), Dutch W. Indies (25).	5,148,797	188,034	Dutch W. Indies (47), British W. Indies (46), Italy (42).
Lubricating	,,	533,614	48,599	U.K. (15), U.S.A. (31), Germany (3).	1,060,537	164,859	U.S.A. (120), U.K. (45) ..	1,138,326	207,945	U.S.A. (150), U.K. (58).
Miscellaneous :										
Cement	tons	53,794	145,449	U.K. (113)	112,687	676,198	U.K. (390), Belgium (251), Poland (31).	160,580	969,259	U.K. (860), Belgium (86), Czechoslovakia (22).
Medicines and drugs ..	—	—	91,493	U.K. (69), Germany (10), U.S.A. (8).	—	413,874	U.K. (381), France (14) ..	—	548,864	U.K. (508), France (28).
Electrical and telegraphic apparatus	—	—	154,798	U.K. (141), U.S.A. (6) ..	—	477,751	U.K. (445), Hong Kong (15) ..	—	591,462	U.K. (533), Hong Kong (48).
Bags and Sacks	No.	4,334,292	98,628	India (93), U.K. (2)	3,921,055	419,964	India (416)	5,883,046	722,024	India (720).

• Chiefly imports from adjacent territories over the land borders of Northern Territories and Ashanti not specified by source.

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the value of domestic exports and merchandise imports by countries of destination and source for the years 1938, 1948 and 1949 :—

DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY DESTINATIONS, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Destination	1938		1948		1949	
	Value	%	*Value*	%	*Value*	%
	£		£		£	
British Commonwealth:						
United Kingdom	7,395,480	66·75	15,433,334	46·90	19,808,332	41·93
Australia	141,567	1·28	736,861	2·24	504,228	1·07
Canada	68,946	0·62	930,713	2·83	1,059,368	2·24
South Africa	12,616	0·11	266,860	0·81	544,209	1·15
Other Commonwealth ..	36,051	0·33	652,531	1·98	1,175,931	2·49
Total Commonwealth ..	7,654,660	69·09	18,020,299	54·76	23,092,068	48·89
Foreign Countries:						
Belgium	56,628	0·51	381,601	1·16	313,220	·66
Czechoslovakia	61,835	0·56	302,044	0·92	176,449	·37
Denmark	36,835	0·33	253,030	0·77	294,319	·62
France	21,669	0·20	19,918	0·06	47,282	·10
French West Africa ..	99,764	0·90	51,974	0·16	74,571	·16
Germany	786,738	7·10	2,743	—	2,454,133	5·20
Italy	44,857	0·40	93,427	0·28	121,181	·26
Netherlands	593,693	5·36	1,111,704	3·38	3,124,109	6·61
Norway	285,492	2·58	726,708	2·21	708,640	1·50
U.S.S.R.	369	—	1,022,883	3·11	1,353,042	2·86
Sweden	59,396	0·54	503,091	1·53	126,150	·27
Switzerland	5,240	0·05	592,256	1·80	226,539	·48
U.S.A.	1,345,580	12·14	9,605,391	29·19	12,020,595	25·45
Other Foreign Countries ..	27,114	0·24	215,229	0·65	3,101,287	6·57
Total Foreign Countries ..	3,425,210	30·91	14,881,999	45·22	24,141,517	51·11
Parcel Post	—	—	3,837	·02	2,691	·01
Grand Total	11,079,870	100·00	32,906,135	100·00	47,236,276	100·00

N.B.—1. The table excludes value of trade across the northern land frontiers.

2. Cocoa exports are valued at f.o.b. cost price, i.e., excluding Cocoa Marketing Board surplus of £21·8 million in 1948. Cocoa exports for 1949 are valued at f.o.b. sale price.

3. In the Trade Report for 1948, cocoa exports to French Togoland are shown as £2,013,520. These exports were, however, consigned through French Togoland to the following destinations :—

United Kingdom	£1,570,766
Eire	29,880
Netherlands	242,874
Norway	76,562
U.S.A.	93,438
	£2,013,520

These details have been embodied in the above table.

Digitized by Google

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS BY SOURCES, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Source	1938		1948		1949	
	Value	%	*Value*	%	*Value*	%
	£		£		£	
British Commonwealth						
United Kingdom	4,288,664	56·00	17,647,400	58·60	26,233,581	59·04
Canada	65,620	0·86	628,762	2·09	470,249	1·06
India	154,100	2·01	624,981	2·08	1,147,180	2·58
Nigeria	178,792	2·33	404,875	1·35	137,403	·31
Hong Kong	24,218	0·32	150,085	·50	216,597	·49
South Africa	6,212	0·08	323,155	1·07	342,116	·77
Other Commonwealth	94,860	1·24	651,414	2·16	1,034,436	2·33
Total Commonwealth	4,812,466	62·84	20,430,672	67·85	29,581,562	66·58
Foreign Countries						
Argentine	44,189	0·58	6,396	0·02	1,462	—
Belgium	109,103	1·42	899,750	3·00	909,661	2·05
Canary Islands	49,711	0·65	31,410	0·11	54,743	·12
Czechoslovakia	143,752	1·88	556,566	1·85	1,099,014	2·47
Denmark	53,624	0·70	97,374	0·32	82,643	·19
France	52,426	0·68	1,363	—	553,147	1·24
French West Africa	79,852	1·04	355,526	1·18	195,323	·44
Germany	453,802	5·94	1,188,782	3·95	1,855,926	4·18
Italy	124,162	1·62	392,710	1·30	885,968	1·99
Japan	281,887	3·68	24,793	0·08	1,747,486	3·93
Netherlands	162,464	2·12	1,750,573	5·81	2,440,452	5·49
Netherlands West Indies	292,780	3·82	755,360	2·51	649,785	1·46
Norway	9,180	0·12	19,400	0·06	49,817	·11
Portugal	21,621	0·28	91,634	0·30	206,188	·46
Sweden	28,968	0·38	58,762	0·20	126,115	·28
Switzerland	60,349	0·79	82,544	0·27	119,210	·27
U.S.A.	768,514	10·04	2,165,393	7·19	2,504,245	5·64
Other Foreign Countries	108,884	1·42	611,095	2·03	503,797	1·13
Total Foreign Countries	2,845,268	37·16	9,089,431	30·18	13,984,982	31·47
Parcel Post	—	—	593,562	1·97	867,228	1·95
Grand Total	7,657,734	100·00	30,113,665	100·00	44,433,772	100·00

N.B.—Imports across the northern land frontier are excluded.

The trade policy of the Government, in line with the general policy of the Sterling Area, is to encourage export to the maximum to North America and other hard currency areas, and to limit import from the Dollar Area to essential needs which cannot be met from the Sterling Area and soft currency countries. After taking account of the Marketing Board surplus, the favourable visible trade balance with the hard currency countries amounted to approximately £7 millions in 1947, and £17 millions in 1948.

It is not at present possible to draw up a balance of payments statement in respect of the Gold Coast owing to the difficulty of estimating the invisible items.

IV.—DEVELOPMENT

Government Activities and Plans

The Development Plan as originally conceived in 1946 provided for the expenditure of £11,452,650 on development over the period to the end of 1956. Of this amount £3½ million was to be derived from Colonial Development and Welfare grants, £4 million from loan funds and the balance from revenue. The plan is summarized in the following table :—

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE UNDER ORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

	Colonial Development and Welfare Grant	*Loan Funds*	*Surplus Balances*	
	£	£	£	
Road construction	—	700,000	100,000	
Accra Harbour Area improvements	—	150,000	—	
Telecommunications and Post Offices	—	250,000	200,000	
Electric Supplies	—	528,000	—	
Water Supplies, Urban	—	1,250,000	—	
Water Supplies, Rural	71,000	—	400,000	
Housing Supplies, Rural	—	800,000	—	
Medical Development	1,626,000	—	266,650	
Education	1,803,000	—	363,000	
Broadcasting	—	100,000	—	
Fisheries	—	120,000	—	
Development Grants to Native Administrations	—	—	1,000,000	
Agriculture	—	—	600,000	
Bungalows, Departmental Offices and Legislative Council Chamber	—	—	925,000	
Social Services	—	—	50,000	
Firewood Plantations	—	—	28,000	
Trypanosomiasis (Central Scheme)	—	—	15,000	
Geological Research	—	—	5,000	
Miscellaneous and unallocated	—	102,000	—	Grand Total
	3,500,000	4,000,000	3,952,650	£11,452,650

Digitized by Google

It is estimated that expenditure on development from surplus balances since 1946-47 amounted to approximately £5½ million at 31st March, 1950, and that almost £400,000 had been spent on Colonial Development and Welfare schemes at that date.

The increasing wealth of the territory has made it possible to envisage greatly enhanced expenditure on development and a new Plan has now been drawn up which envisages the expenditure of some £74 million, as follows :—

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE UNDER THE REVISED PLAN

	£	£
Economic and Productive Services		
Agriculture	3,574,200	
Soil and Land Use Survey	75,800	
Animal Health	85,000	
Tsetse Control	82,000	
Forestry	179,000	
Fisheries	57,000	
Commerce and Industries	3,410,000	
Mines	65,000	
Geological Survey	41,000	
Co-operation	70,000	
Electricity	743,000	
Water Supplies	3,500,000	
Survey Department	53,000	
Meteorology	9,000	
Local Development Committees	500,000	
		12,444,000
Communications		
Railways	16,350,000	
Roads	8,000,000	
Harbours	250,000	
Air Services	50,000	
Posts and Telegraphs	1,460,000	
		26,110,000
Social Services		
Education	11,975,000	
Health	4,240,000	
Social Welfare	175,000	
Labour	137,000	
Housing	5,985,000	
Town and Country Planning	2,000,000	
		24,512,000
Common Services and General Administration		
Public Relations and Broadcasting	471,000	
Military Buildings	990,000	
Police	1,442,000	
Prisons	871,000	
Lands	600,000	
Official Buildings	4,300,000	
Printing	122,000	
Transport Department	100,000	
Local Government Works	2,000,000	
		10,896,000
Total Expenditure		£73,962,000

It is anticipated that the Plan will be financed from the following resources :—

	£000
Surplus Balances	7,500
C.D. & W. Grants	3,000
Loans to H.M.G.	800
Revenue	39,600*
Loans	23,000
	£73,900

Other Development

Little information is available regarding the future plans of private industry. The principal field of expansion is undoubtedly timber production, where there were 24 sawmills in operation in 1950. The largest single undertaking will probably be a timber mill being erected by a British firm at Samreboi, in the Western Province, but this will not be in full commercial production for some time, and no figures of estimated capital investment are available. The prospects of an expansion in the gold mining industry should have been improved as a result of the increase in the price of gold following the devaluation of the pound sterling. An expansion in manganese output should occur. As regards bauxite, the relatively high cost of production and delivery at port is having an adverse effect on output, and, for this product, any large-scale development may depend on the outcome of the examination of the Volta River Development scheme.

* Including £26.5 million from export duty on Cocoa.

Digitized by Google

MAIN CASH PRODUCTS

NIGERIA AND GOLD COAST

Scale
Miles 50 0 50 100 150 200 250 Miles

REFERENCE

Colonial Boundaries	+ – + –	Palm Products	
Provincial "	– · – · –	Groundnuts	
Principal Roads		Cocoa	
Railways		Cotton	
		Coconuts	
		Benniseed	
		Bauxite	■
		Gold	●
		Diamonds	♦

FRENCH WEST AFRICA

LAKE CHAD

CAMEROONS (BRITISH TRUST TERRITORY)

CAMEROONS (FRENCH TRUST TERRITORY)

NORTHERN PROVINCES

HIDES AND SHEA NUTS

GOAT SKINS

HIDES AND SKINS

SKINS

EASTERN PROVINCES

WESTERN PROVINCES

ASHANTI

GOLD COAST

NORTHERN TERRITORIES

GROUNDNUTS AND MILLET WITH LIVESTOCK

TOGOLAND

COLONY

DAHOMEY

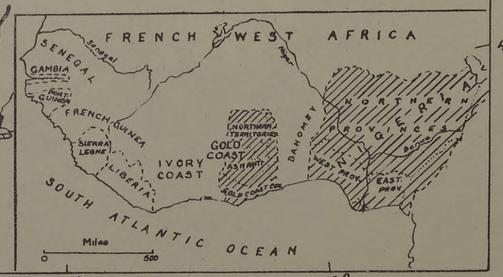
IVORY COAST

GULF OF GUINEA

Ouagadougou, Navrongo, Bawku, Nakong, Lawra, Wa, Yendi, Tamale, Bole, Salaga, Bondoukou, Sampa, Wenchi, Sunyani, Kete Kratchi, Goaso, Kumasi, Mampong, Ejura, Dekwai, Mpraeso, Awaso, Obuasi, Dunkwa, Kade, Koforidua, Oda, Enchi, Aboisso, Prestea, Tarkwa, Saltpond, Winneba, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Takoradi, Axim, Half Assini, Bonyere, Accra, Ada, Akuse, Keta, Lome, Atakpame, Bitta, Sansanne Mango, Yoga, Natitingou, Djougou, Nikki, Yashikera, Parakou, Kishi, Shaki, Ilaro, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ife, Ilorin, Jebba, Offa, Oyo, Iseyin, Allada, Abomey, Lagos, Okitipupa, Benin City, Sapele, Warri, Forcados, Burutu, R. Escravos, Akassa, Port Harcourt, Owerri, Calabar, Victoria, Buea, Bamenda, Kumba, Mamfe, Ikom, Abakaliki, Ogoja, Onitsha, Enugu, Awka, Udi, Nsukka, Makurdi, Lokoja, Egbe, Baro, Abuja, Minna, Zungeru, Kafanchan, Jos, Bauchi, Gombe, Yola, Mayo Belwa, Wukari, Arufu, Akwana, Katsina Ala, Oturkpo, Zaria, Kaduna, Kontagora, Yelwa, Tegina, Funtua, Katsina, Kano, Kaura Namoda, Sokoto, Birnin Kebbi, Dosso, Tessaoua, Zinder, Gouré, Nguru, Gashua, Potiskum, Damaturu, Maiduguri, Dikwa, Ngala, Gamboru, Biu, Jos, Wamba, Shendam, Lafia, Akure, Owo, Ondo, Ijebu Ode, Ogbomosho, Oshogbo, Ede, Ife, Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ilaro, Ijebu Ode, Ikorodu, Lagos, Badagry, Porto Novo, Cotonou, Agnebilakrou, Panda, Suhyen, Goaso, Bekwai, Mpraeso, Awaso, Obuasi, Dunkwa, Kade, Koforidua, Oda, Enchi, Aboisso, Prestea, Tarkwa, Saltpond, Winneba, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Takoradi, Axim, Half Assini, Bonyere, Accra, Ada, Akuse, Keta, Lome, Atakpame, Bitta, Sansanne Mango, Yoga, Natitingou, Djougou, Nikki, Yashikera, Parakou, Kishi, Shaki, Ilaro, Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ife, Ilorin, Jebba, Offa, Oyo, Iseyin, Allada, Abomey, Lagos, Okitipupa, Benin City, Sapele, Warri, Forcados, Burutu, R. Escravos, Akassa, Port Harcourt, Owerri, Calabar, Victoria, Buea, Bamenda, Kumba, Mamfe, Ikom, Abakaliki, Ogoja, Onitsha, Enugu, Awka, Udi, Nsukka, Makurdi, Lokoja, Egbe, Baro, Abuja, Minna, Zungeru, Kafanchan, Jos, Bauchi, Gombe, Yola, Mayo Belwa, Wukari, Arufu, Akwana, Katsina Ala, Oturkpo, Zaria, Kaduna, Kontagora, Yelwa, Tegina, Funtua, Katsina, Kano, Kaura Namoda, Sokoto, Birnin Kebbi, Dosso, Tessaoua, Zinder, Gouré, Nguru, Gashua, Potiskum, Damaturu, Maiduguri, Dikwa, Ngala, Gamboru, Biu, Jos, Wamba, Shendam, Lafia, Akure, Owo, Ondo, Ijebu Ode, Ogbomosho, Oshogbo, Ede, Ife, Ibadan, Abeokuta, Ilaro, Ijebu Ode, Ikorodu, Lagos, Badagry, Porto Novo, Cotonou

KOLA, TIMBER, COFFEE, RICE, GROUNDNUTS, COTTON, COCONUTS, BENNISEED, BAUXITE, GOLD, DIAMONDS, TIN AND COLUMBITE, LEAD AND ZINC, TIN, RICE, COLUMBITE, LEAD AND ZINC, LEAD ZINC SILVER, COAL, LIGNITE

TIN AND COLUMBITE
LEAD AND ZINC
TIN
RICE
COLUMBITE
LEAD AND ZINC
LEAD ZINC SILVER
COAL
LIGNITE



2° West of Greenwich 0° East of Greenwich 2° 4° 6° 8° 10° 12°

14° 12° 10° 8° 6° 4°

Crown Copyright Reserved

C.B.H. 19978 - Wt. 4502 - Dd. -1500-1/52

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

C. NIGERIA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographic and Climatic Features

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is the largest of the British West African possessions, its area, including the Cameroons held in trusteeship, being 372,674 square miles, or more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. The Protectorate is divided into three Administrative Regions, the Northern, Western, and Eastern Provinces with headquarters at Kaduna, Ibadan and Enugu respectively. The main block of the Trusteeship Territory is administered as the Cameroons and Bamenda Provinces of the Eastern Provinces and the rest of the former German Territory is administered as parts of the Bornu, Adamawa, and Benue Provinces of the Northern Provinces. The Colony includes the islands and mainland constituting the Lagos Municipal area, and extends for 110 miles along the coast ; it is 1,381 square miles in area.

The whole territory of Nigeria is bounded on the north and west by French territory, on the north-east by Lake Chad, on the east by the Cameroons, on the south by the Gulf of Guinea and lies between latitude 40° 15′ N., and longitude 2° 40′ and 14° E.

Nigeria is divided into four main zones :—

(i) A belt of swamp and mangrove forest, 10 to 60 miles wide and following the coastline. It includes the delta of the Niger and is intersected by innumerable rivers and creeks.

(ii) A belt of dense tropical forest from 50 to 100 miles wide, intersected by rivers and streams, and very rich in oil-palms, which constitute at present the chief wealth of Nigeria. The ground here is undulating with a few scattered hills, but there is no open ground except around villages and farms. This zone merges into the next, a line passing through the towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan, Ondo, Onitsha and Afikpo serving as a rough boundary.

(iii) A belt of more open country which gradually becomes clearer, park-like land being followed by open expanses covered with high grass. This zone is hilly, especially in the Ondo Province and on the eastern frontier.

(iv) A vast, undulating plateau, generally about 2,000 feet high, but, with occasional hills of granite and sandstone, rising, e.g., in parts of the Plateau Province and to the south-west of Yola to heights of over 6,000 feet. The southern portion of the plateau is covered by thin forest, but the country becomes more open towards the north, until at last the sandy tracts are reached that border on the Sahara.

In the north of the Bamenda Province begins the Central African plateau of an average altitude of about 4,000 feet rising in places to 8,000 feet. In the south near the sea is the Cameroons Mountain (13,350 feet). It is volcanic, and has been active as recently as 1922.

Nigeria has many important rivers. The Niger itself rises to the north-east of Sierra Leone, flows for about two-thirds of its length through French territory, and enters Nigeria from the west, running in a south-easterly direction to its confluence with the Benue (its principal tributary) at Lokoja, and thence southwards. About 5° 30′ North, it splits into a number of channels, which finally run into the Gulf of Guinea. Other important rivers are the Rima (or Sokoto) and the Kaduna (tributaries of the Niger) and the Cross, which enters the sea close to the eastern frontier. There is a large number of smaller rivers.

Except perhaps on the plateau the climate of Nigeria is not a healthy one for Europeans and Nigeria shares with the rest of West Africa an unenviable reputation in this respect. The climate is influenced to a large extent by the interaction of two great wind currents, viz., the dry, dust laden harmattan, which is a north-easterly off the Sahara, and the south-westerly " monsoon " from the Gulf of Guinea.

The harmattan makes its appearance in the north about the beginning of October. Its prevalence is marked by clear skies resulting in a large diurnal variation of temperature and by the presence of very dry, dusty atmosphere. The surface line of demarcation between the harmattan and the " monsoon " moves southward in November and December. Near the coast the extreme dryness of the harmattan is modified by the evaporation of water from the delta, and moist fogs replace the harmattan haze of the north.

The south-westerly current begins its advance northward about the end of March, reaching the extreme north during the month of June. Its presence is marked by cloudy skies and heavy rain. Precipitation is heaviest in the north during August and September, while in the southern provinces two maxima occur, one in June–July and one in September.

The beginning and end of the rainy season are marked by the appearance of the West African tornado, a violent, squally thunderstorm. It is generally associated with vivid lightning effects, very heavy rain and a squall gust which may on occasion reach 80 miles per hour.

The following table shows mean annual temperature and rainfall for certain areas in 1948 :—

MEAN AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FOR SELECTED AREAS: 1948

Station	*Height above Sea level. Feet*	*Mean Annual Temperature*	*Rainfall (inches)*
Enugu	763	79·7	75·27
Ibadan	656	78·5	30·01
Ikeja	128	78·8	35·95
Jos	4,010	70·5	68·08
Kano	1,539	78·2	27·58
Kaduna	1,915	76·3	50·87
Nguru	1,100	80·3	13·68
Port Harcourt ..	49	79·5	83·81
Victoria	21	—	200·81
Warri	25	79·7	132·01

Population

No general census has been undertaken throughout Nigeria since 1931, when the population was estimated at 19,928,171, inclusive of natives of Nigeria, native foreigners, and non-natives. Estimates of a varying degree of accuracy can be made from annual returns of tax-payers, but women are not subject to direct taxation over a large part of the territory, and their numbers, as well as the number of children, can only be estimated roughly. The general estimate framed for 1950 gave the following results :—

Northern Provinces	13,800,000
Western „	4,000,000
Eastern „	6,100,000
Colony	430,000
Total (including Cameroons) ..	24,330,000

The density of population varies considerably throughout the territory, the most congested areas being in the Eastern Provinces and the most thinly populated areas in the Cameroons and parts of Northern Provinces. In recent years there has been a steady drift of population towards the large towns on account of the higher wages and increased social amenities available there.

Digitized by Google

The most recent estimate of the population of the main towns is as follows :—

Colony	Lagos	230,000
Northern Provinces	Kano	100,000
	Ilorin	53,000
	Maiduguri	43,000
Western Provinces	Ibadan	335,000
	Iwo	86,000
	Ogbomosho	85,000
	Oyo	79,000
	Oshogbo	64,000
	Abeokuta	54,000
	Ede	51,000
	Iseyin	48,000
	Ife	45,000
Eastern Provinces	Onitsha	60,000
	Port Harcourt	45,000
	Enugu	40,000

The so-called tribal groups are really linguistic groups ; of these, the Hausa and Fulani predominate in the Northern Provinces, and the Ibo and Yoruba in the Eastern and Western Provinces respectively. Other important groups are the Kanuti, the Ibibio, the Tiv, and the Edo.

The great bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture. Estimates of the numbers employed in some of the main industries and occupations are (for 1947) :—

WAGE EMPLOYMENT BY MAIN CLASSES

Mining	64,000
Colliery	6,594
Timber and Saw-mills	9,056
Paper and printing	986
Electricity	847
Road and rail transport	22,737
Navigation and air service	5,937
Posts and Telegraphs	3,429
Provincial Administration	2,380
Native Administration	56,628
Public Works	29,664
Banking	261

There are about 12,500 expatriates in Nigeria and the great majority of these are employed by Government or the commercial firms. There is a small Syrian and Lebanese element, with important commercial activities.

Social Amenities

Education

Educational facilities are increasing but are handicapped by shortage of buildings and certificated trained staff. Much valuable assistance has been given by voluntary agencies (chiefly Missions) in the field of primary education. In the Northern Provinces, where education of the Western type has spread more slowly than in the South, by reason of the vast areas to be covered and the limited operation of Christian Missions in predominantly Mohammedan areas, these agencies maintained some 851 primary schools in 1949, with an enrolment of 62,100. Native Authorities in the North maintained 532 schools, with an enrolment of 33,500. Boys in the Mohammedan North may, of course, be considered to have some basic education of the Mohammedan type, apart from the literary type of Western education. A special grant of £500,000 was recently made by the Legislative Council for accelerating educational development in the North, largely by the provision of more trained teachers.

In Southern Nigeria at the end of 1949 there were some 7,300 primary schools with a total enrolment of 837,735.

Secondary education is provided in 205 schools with a total enrolment at the beginning of 1950 of 23,400.

The demand for higher education has been met by the establishment of University College at Ibadan, where undergraduates are prepared for degrees of the University of London in Arts and Sciences. The first academic term opened in January, 1948, and at the beginning of the academic year in October, 1950, there were 346 undergraduates. During 1950 Government provided 111 scholarships for higher educational courses, tenable at Ibadan and overseas.

In the general movement towards mass education some 33 campaigns for adult literacy were organized in 1950, providing instruction for some 52,700 persons.

Technical education is provided at the Technical Institute at Yaba, where courses are given for handicraft and manual instructors and engineering assistants. Part time and evening courses are given in carpentry and joinery, mechanical engineering and electrical installation work. Trade centres have been opened also at Kaduna, Yaba and Enugu to provide instruction in fitting, carpentry, joining and bricklaying, and others are under construction at Jos, Kano, Sapele and Ombe River. Plans for the establishment of a Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology are well advanced.

Health

Economic development is severely handicapped by the many health needs and problems of Nigeria. Outbreaks of relapsing and cerebro-spinal fevers are a serious problem in many of the Northern Provinces, and no province is entirely free from smallpox. Helminthic infestation has been estimated by field survey at 33 per cent to 50 per cent or over. Guinea worm infection prevails in many parts of the North, and the incidence of yaws is widely spread throughout Southern Nigeria. It has been estimated that four-fifths of the population suffer from venereal disease and that there are some 400,000 lepers. Malaria is widespread.

Counter measures have met with considerable success. In Lagos the anti-malaria swamp drainage scheme has been completed. An intensive campaign against trypanosomiasis has been carried out by the Sleeping Sickness Service, and the incidence of the disease is now down to 1 per cent. At Anchau, in the Northern Provinces, a belt 70 miles long and 10 miles wide has now been completely cleared of tsetse fly for the resettlement of some 50,000 people. Leprosy control has made significant progress, and there has been an improvement in rural health work.

The provision of health facilities has been governed largely by considerations of finance and communications, and services vary in different parts of the country according to the willingness of the people to accept the benefits offered by modern medicine. A widespread system of dispensaries has been developed throughout the country, financed by native administrations, and these cater for the common ailments among the rural population, providing treatment for malaria, yaws, and other endemic diseases of high incidence. A small but efficient laboratory service is maintained, and various vaccines are prepared on a scale large enough to export appreciable quantities to other West African Colonies. The network of hospitals, dispensaries, and medical field units is being extended, and particular attention given to basic research, especially in respect of malaria and nutrition.

Housing

General standards of rural housing show little fundamental variation. In all Regions the basic type of house is the mud hut with thatched roof and mud or wattle compound wall, with bamboo frequently taking the place of mud in riverside areas. In urban areas the mud walled building, sometimes cement faced, with corrugated iron roof is very common. The construction of permanent houses with cement block walls is on the increase amongst wealthier Africans, and in several areas the influence of Army service is seen in a change from the collection of mud huts all in one compound to the multi-roomed house covered by one roof. In the larger towns there is a considerable landlord class, and the scarcity of building materials has led to much overcrowding, and a period of high rents. There are no building societies.

Town planning is to be found chiefly in Lagos, where the specially created Lagos Executive Development Board deals with slum clearance and re-planning, and in Port Harcourt, the second port of the Territory, where two

Digitized by Google

town planning schemes are in operation and a third has been recommended. Urban re-planning and development is also being taken in hand for other towns and an increasing number of Native Authorities are adopting building rules and enforcing health measures.

Social Security

The financial structure and resources of Nigeria have not yet been developed to an extent which will allow of large-scale schemes of social security but in the greater part of the country the indigenous system of family solidarity provides a safeguard against social insecurity. The Post Office Savings Bank, organized on lines similar to that of the corresponding institution in the United Kingdom and with 127 branches, and Co-operative Thrift and Credit Societies, which are just starting, are the main agencies for encouraging small scale thrift.

Political Structure

Constitutional and political background

The constitution introduced in the summer of 1951 provided for increased regional autonomy within a United Nigeria and gave Nigerians a fuller share in the shaping of Government policy. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief will preside over a Central Council of Ministers, consisting of 6 *ex-officio* members and 12 Ministers, while in each of the three regions (North, East and West) the Lieutenant-Governor will preside over an Executive Council with a varying number of Ministers who will in all cases outnumber official members. There will be a House of Representatives at the Centre consisting of a President, 6 official members, 136 representative members (68 from the North and 34 each from the East and West) and up to 12 members representing special interests. There will be legislative Houses in each of the three regions, with both a House of Chiefs and a House of Assembly in the North and in the West and a single House of Assembly in the East.

Ministers with portfolio will have the following responsibilities :—

(*a*) the initiation of discussion of matters affecting the subjects for which they are responsible in the Council of Ministers or in the regional executive councils,

(*b*) the conduct of Government business affecting those subjects in the legislature in which they sit,

(*c*) the responsibility for ensuring that the decisions of the council are carried out, acting in association with the appropriate public officer.

Regional legislatures will have powers of legislation on a prescribed range of subjects, and the central legislature will have full powers of legislation on all subjects. Before assent can be given to a regional bill the Central Council of Ministers must have indicated it has no objection. The Central Council of Ministers also has the power of giving directions on any subject to regional executive councils.

Local Government

With the exception of the larger towns, the country is divided into local government areas administered by Native Authorities. The system took its origin in the principles of "indirect rule" introduced into Northern Nigeria, where the Native Authorities consist of the Chiefs and Councils discharging the local functions of Government under the supervision and with the assistance and advice of the British administrative staff. These Native Authorities are responsible for the peace and good order of their respective areas, in so far as persons legally subject to their jurisdiction are concerned. Heads of districts and villages, each answerable through his superior for the area in his charge, complete the chain of executive responsibility. They, together with the Native Authority's Courts, prison and police are financed by the Native Treasury, into which is paid its share of the taxes that it collects, as well as the total receipts of its Courts and various minor fees. The revenue and expenditure of each Native Treasury are shown in its annual Estimates.

The Native Administrations also undertake such services as their means permit, with the technical branches supervised by Government officers of the appropriate Departments, paid by the central Government. Hospitals, dispensaries, schools, roads and motor transport are maintained in this way, and some of the larger Administrations have embarked on the public supply of electricity and water, and have their own survey and printing departments.

In the Western and Eastern Provinces the greater diversity in the origins, customs, and degrees of development of the people, and in the antecedents of their governing organizations have led to much variation in the constitution and operation of the Native Authorities. Some are comparatively well organized units controlling their own treasuries, undertaking and maintaining public works of various degrees of magnitude, and passing subsidiary legislation for purposes such as sanitation, the control of markets, the protection of particular trades, and the licensing of bicycles. In other areas the most appropriate constitution for the Native Administration has not yet been determined, and many services, which are elsewhere undertaken by the local authorities, are the responsibility of Government. A system of local government bodies, to be called County, District, and Local Councils, is at present being introduced in the Eastern Provinces.

Outside rural areas the two main urban centres are Lagos and Port Harcourt, where local administration on the usual municipal model is carried on by Town Councils. Smaller centres, such as Kaduna and Jos, are administered as townships under a Local Authority.

Administrative Departments

The principal Departments of Government are the Nigerian Railway, and the Departments of Agriculture, Forests, Mines, Labour, Education, Commerce and Industries, Marketing and Exports, Customs and Excise, Marine, Survey, Geological Survey, Co-operative Societies, Lands, Public Works, Police, Prisons and the Medical and Veterinary Departments. The 1951 constitution will involve the regionalization of a number of these Departments.

External Affairs

The Governor of Nigeria was a member of the West African Council which was established for all the four British West African colonies with its headquarters at Accra until it was formally dissolved in June, 1951. This liaison with other West African territories will be maintained through the newly established West African Inter-territorial Conference.

Nigeria is further represented at the various inter-regional and international conferences held from time to time to consider various questions of common interest, such as trypanosomiasis, labour problems, rinderpest, and soil usage. Economic and cultural information is supplied each year to the United Nations Organization under section 73 (*e*) of the Charter, and an annual report is submitted to the U.N. Trusteeship Council on the Cameroons under U.K. trusteeship.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

Taxation is levied under the Direct Taxation Ordinance (No. 4 of 1940), and the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 29 of 1943), and customs duties are levied under the Customs Ordinance (No. 28 of 1942), as amended from time to time.

Allowances and rates of Income Tax were as follows at the end of 1950 :—

Allowances

Married man	£200
Additional if wife resident outside Nigeria ..	£100
Each child (maximum four) under the age of 16 or still receiving education	£40
Child resident outside Nigeria—up to	£150

Life Insurance Premiums—not exceeding specified fraction of total income. Widows and Orphans Pensions Contributions.

Digitized by Google

Rate of tax on remaining income

For every pound of the first	£200	..	4½d.
„ „ „ next	£200	..	9d.
„ „ „ „	£200	..	1s. 1½d.
„ „ „ „	£200	..	1s. 6d.
„ „ „ „	£400	..	3s. 0d.
„ „ „ „	£800	..	4s. 6d.
„ „ „ „	£1,000	..	6s. 0d.
„ „ „ „	£1,000	..	7s. 6d.
„ „ „ „	£1,000	..	9s. 0d.
„ „ „ „	£5,000	..	11s. 3d.
„ „ exceeding	£10,000	..	15s. 0d.

The rate of tax on companies is 9s. in the pound. Assessable profits are calculated in much the same way as in the United Kingdom. Within their first six years of operation new companies incorporated and controlled in Nigeria are charged tax at the reduced rates for any year in which their profits do not exceed £3,000.

Company law, set out in Cap. 132 of the Laws of Nigeria, as subsequently amended, is based on United Kingdom practice.

There are a number of important measures relating to *agricultural production*, e.g. :—

(*a*) The Agricultural Ordinance (No. 37 of 1948), setting up a Board of Agriculture empowered to regulate the planting and growing of agricultural crops, the control of plant diseases and pests, and the preparation, marketing, storage, transport, and shipping of agricultural produce ;

(*b*) The Cocoa Marketing Board Ordinance (No. 33 of 1947) ;

(*c*) the Nigeria Groundnut Marketing Ordinance (No. 11 of 1949) ;

(*d*) the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Ordinance (No. 12 of 1949) ;

(*e*) the Nigeria Cotton Marketing Ordinance (No. 13 of 1949).

These four Ordinances establish, in respect of each kind of produce, a Marketing Board required to purchase all produce suitable for export, to control and fix the purchase price, and to make the most suitable arrangements for marketing. For groundnut and oil palm produce, Regional Production Development Boards are also established for the economic development of the producing industries and the areas of production, whilst in the case of cocoa and cotton these functions devolve on the Marketing Boards themselves.

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

The trade tariffs are set out in the Customs Ordinance (Cap. 48 of 1948 editions of the Laws). Among the most important import duties in force at the end of March, 1951, were the following :—

Potable spirits:

Brandy, gin, rum, whisky .. £3 18s. 0d. per gallon

Tobacco, unmanufactured : 8s. 0d. per lb.

Cigars : £1 per 100

Cigarettes :

(*a*) up to 3 lb. weight per 1,000—£3 10s. per 1,000
(*b*) above 3 lb. weight per 1,000—£1 10s. per 1,000

Motor spirit and lubricating oil : 10d. per gallon

Apparel : 16⅔ per cent *ad valorem* or specific rates

Toilet preparations : 66⅔ per cent *ad valorem*

Cotton Piece Goods:	*Interlock fabric. Pence per lb.*	*Other Pence per sq. yd.*
Unbleached	8	2
Bleached	9	3
Dyed in the piece ..	11	4
Coloured	—	4
Printed	—	4
Velveteens, etc.	—	9
Fents	—	12

Exemptions from import duties include advertising matter, aircraft, goods for the service of Government departments and Native Administrations, agricultural, mining, water-boring, and industrial development machinery.

Export duties were as follows at the end of August, 1951 :—

Palm kernels	10 per cent *ad valorem*
Palm kernel oil	
Palm kernel cake	
Palm kernel meal	
Palm oil	
Groundnuts	
Groundnut oil	
Groundnut cake	
Groundnut meal	
Benniseed	
Cotton lint	
Cotton seed	
Cocoa ..	10 per cent *ad valorem* when value does not exceed £150 per ton. Additional one-tenth of 1 per cent for every £ or part of a £ by which the value exceeds £150 per ton.
Fresh bananas	3d. per bunch
Dried bananas	2d. per 10 lb.
Sheanuts	£2 10s. per ton
Cattle hides	£22 per ton
Sheepskins	£35 per ton
Goatskins	£60 per ton
Tin ore	7s. 8d. per ton
Raw Rubber	10 per cent *ad valorem*

	per cu. ft.
Triplochiton scleroxylon (Obeche) *Entandrophragma*, all species (Saplewood, Gedunohor, Omu) *Khaya*, all species (African mahogany, Lagoswood, Beninwood) *Chlorophora excelsa* (*Iroko*) *Terminalia superba* (Afara) *Lovoa klaineana* (African Walnut) *Guarea*, all species (Guarea) *Gossweilerodendron balsamiferum* (Agba) *Mitragyna spp.* (Abura) *Sarcocephalus diderrichii* (Opepe) *Mansonia altissima* (Mansonia)	
Exported in log form ..	0 3
Exported as sawn timber not exceeding 6 inches in thickness or as veneers ..	0 2
All other timbers not mentioned in the above schedule, sawn (including veneers) or log ..	per cu. ft. 0 1
Curls	the curl 5 0

A wide range of goods manufactured in the United Kingdom or in the Colonial Empire is permitted entry into Nigeria under open general licence. Practically all goods from the United Kingdom may be imported under the terms of this licence except where they are subject to any special considerations such as international programming, existing world shortages, or Nigerian regulations governing particular imports. Certain classes of goods are imported only within the terms of essential Nigerian requirements, being either subject to International Emergency Food Council programming, or treated as reserved commodities, or in short supply in the United Kingdom. Specific import licences are issued on application to all bona fide importers with an assured source of supply until import licences have been issued for the total permitted quantities.

Commodities of which the import into Nigeria is restricted include animal feeding stuffs, cereals, certain oils and fats, pulses, rice and animal glue, and commodities of which the import is programmed include butter, cheese, canned pickled and salted meat, salad oil, medicinal oil, nitrogenous fertilizers, sugar and linseed oil, together with (in respect of U.K. supplies) breakfast cereals, glucose, milk-based infant foods, oat products, and lentils.

Digitized by Google

Exports to the Sterling Area may be made without licence, except for :—

(*a*) produce handled by Marketing Boards, i.e., cocoa, palm kernels, palm kernel oil, meal and cake, palm oil, groundnuts, groundnut oil, meal and cake, benniseed, benniseed oil, meal and cake, cotton lint, cotton seed, cotton seed oil, meal and cake.

(*b*) imported goods or goods made wholly or partly of imported materials, with the exception of exposed films and photographs, stamp collections, newspapers published in Nigeria, and leather goods manufactured in Nigeria ;

(*c*) locally produced foodstuffs, with the exception of kola nuts, tiger and cashew nuts, chillies, black peppers, cloves, ginger, fruits and fruit juices ;

(*d*) hides, copra, bones, minerals, which may be exported only to the U.K. ;

(*e*) soap made from local materials, which may be exported by the manufacturers only ;

(*f*) tobacco, except locally made cigars ;

(*g*) animals and birds for food.

(iii) *Labour*

The principal legislation covering labour matters comprises :

(*a*) the Labour Code Ordinance (No. 54 of 1945). A very comprehensive statute, based on U.K. legislation and International Conventions, covering Contracts, recruitment, the employment of women, the prohibition of child labour, night work, minimum wages, and general conditions of employment ;

(*b*) the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 51 of 1941) providing for the payment of compensation to specified classes of workers in respect of injuries suffered by accident arising out of, and in the course of employment. Claims under the Ordinance are settled by the Courts, but settlement may be made between the parties in the case of non-fatal accidents ;

(*c*) the Trade Union Ordinance (No. 44 of 1938), legalising any Trade Union formed and registered under its provisions. Any five or more members may apply for their union to be registered. The benefit of such registration includes the right to peaceful picketing, protection against civil actions for breach of contract, and for tort in respect of acts done in contemplation of furtherance of a trade dispute ;

(*d*) the Trades Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance (No. 32 of 1941), providing statutory machinery for the settlement of trade disputes, by conciliation, reference to arbitration with the consent of both parties, or by appointment of a Board of Inquiry to inquire into and report on any matters connected with or relevant to a trade dispute.

(iv) *Land Tenure*

A report made in 1908 by a Committee of Inquiry into the system of land tenure in Northern Nigeria established the fact that according to native law and custom no private estate could exist, and that all land was the property of the community. Land was granted to individuals who had the use and enjoyment of it, but, as this grant could at any time for particular reasons be revoked, there was no freehold as understood in England. In evidence given before the West African Lands Committee in 1912 it was maintained that in Southern Nigeria the general rule was that each community had rights of distribution among its members over a certain tract of land, the distribution being carried out by the head of the community acting in concert with a council of elders and each member of the community being entitled to the use of sufficient land to provide for his sustenance. Subject to good behaviour and to the performance of his duties towards the State he could retain this land for life, and at his death it would pass, usually, to his eldest son, but always subject to the approval of the original grantors.

Legislation has been enacted to prevent wholesale alienation of land under economic pressure and the introduction of extraneous forms of land tenure.

In the Northern Provinces and Cameroons today all land is held in trust for the people by the Governor, and his consent is necessary for any grant of title to the use and occupation of land, for the transfer of possession or other dealing in land, and the alienation of land to non-natives of the Northern Provinces. No grants of freehold are made, but building and agricultural " rights of occupancy " are granted by Government with conditions as to improvements and revision of rent at stated intervals.

In the Southern Provinces lands are not at the disposal and under the control of the Governor in the same way as are native lands in the Northern Provinces, but lands may not be leased to a non-native except with the consent of the Governor. Except in a few cases where absolute ownership has been recognized in the past, non-native interests are now practically confined to leases for not more than 99 years.

The greater part of the land in the Southern Provinces is still held under rights which, by long occupation, have matured into family rights, but an increasing proportion of the land in the more developed regions is passing into individual ownership.

Within the Colony of Nigeria individual ownership is everywhere recognized and the restrictions as to alienation to non-natives do not apply.

Crown land is of limited extent, the greater part being lands acquired by the Government for public purposes.

The Governor may grant leases of Crown land, generally for not more than 99 years, but sales require the prior consent of the Secretary of State.

The chief legislation concerning land tenure comprises the following :—

Arotas (Crown Grants)	Cap. 15
Crown Lands	„ 45
Ex-enemy Lands	„ 66–67
Land Tenure	„ 105
Native Lands Acquisition ..	„ 144
Public Lands Acquisition	„ 185

(Chapter references are to the 1948 edition of the Laws of Nigeria.)

(v) *Immigration*

British subjects do not require visas to enter Nigeria. On the other hand, when they have arrived in Nigeria they require Immigration certificates, the issue of which is entirely at the discretion of Government, and which includes a provision that the possessor shall not enter into any business or employment without the prior approval of Government.

Policy regarding the entry of persons into Nigeria for business or trade purposes is that applications are only granted if it can be shown that they are to the economic advantage of the country, bearing in mind the claims of Africans and the possibility of their being able to undertake such activities within a reasonable time, and if it can be shown that Africans are not at present able to establish such businesses. It is, for example, considered that Africans are fully competent to engage in the retail trade, and as a general rule no further applicants who are not natives of Nigeria are admitted for the purpose of engaging in such trade.

Communications and Transport

Railways

The Nigerian Railway, which is a Government system, is the most extensive of any in the Crown Colonies.

The first section of the Railway from Iddo (Lagos) to Ibadan (a distance of 119 miles) was commenced in 1895 and opened in 1901. The gauge is 3 ft. 6 ins., and at the present time the line covers a distance of 1,903 miles ; in addition there are 133 miles of 2 ft. 6 ins. gauge track.

The North-Western main line of the Railway runs from Lagos to Kano, some 700 miles, passing through

Digitized by Google

the important towns of Abeokuta, Ibadan (the headquarters of the Western Provinces), Ilorin, Jebba (where the line crosses the River Niger), Zunguru, Minna, Kaduna (the headquarters of the Northern Provinces), and Zaria. Lagos is the terminal port; at Apapa, on the mainland side of Lagos Harbour, there is a rail-served quay and transit sheds. The actual terminus is at Iddo, which is situated on an island connected with the mainland by a causeway (road and rail) and with Lagos Island by Carter Bridge (road).

The principal export commodities carried on this section of the Railway are groundnuts, cotton, hides and skins from the Northern Provinces, cocoa and oil palm produce from the districts south of Jebba; general imports and kola nuts form the principal items of north-bound traffic.

The Eastern main line runs from Port Harcourt deep-water quay on the Bonny River northwards, passing through a densely populated oil palm area en route to Enugu (the headquarters of the Eastern Provinces) where it serves the Government coal mines. The line crosses the Benue River at Makurdi and continues through Kafanchan to join the North-Western line at Kaduna Junction, a distance of 569 miles from Port Harcourt. From Kafanchan a branch line (63 miles) goes to Jos, an important centre in connection with the tin mining industry. Tin is exported via Port Harcourt.

Coal, which is mined at the Enugu Colliery and used by the Nigerian Railway, is loaded into vessels at Port Harcourt and shipped to Ijora, a wharf situated on Iddo Island near the Railway terminus. It is off-loaded here and then railed to destinations.

The Nigerian Railway was originally designed to handle 1,480,000 tons of freight annually. Since 1943, however, this tonnage has been regularly exceeded and in 1948 total tons hauled amounted to 1,603,966.

The Railway also operates a road feeder service in the North, with its headquarters at Zaria. Seventy-three lorries and twenty-two trailers are used in this service, which brings in produce from outlying districts to the railhead.

For the year ending 31st March, 1950, the numbers of passengers carried and fares paid were as follows :—

NIGERIAN RAILWAYS: PASSENGERS TRAFFIC, 1949–50

Class	*Passengers Carried*	*Fares Paid*
		£
1st	11,052	63,624
2nd	41,404	81,637
3rd	5,499,324	683,223
Total	5,551,780	828,484

The figures for goods over the same period were :—

NIGERIAN RAILWAYS: GOODS TRAFFIC, 1949–50

Class	*Tons Carried*	*Receipts*
		£
General Goods ..	1,046,530	4,621,953
Coal	200,297	149,919
Livestock	52,568	139,383
Total	1,299,395	4,911,255

Roads

The following table shows the mileage of roads in Nigeria at December, 1950 :—

ROAD MILEAGE

Nature of Surfacing	*Maintenance Authority*		
	Government	*Native Administrations*	*Townships*
Bituminous	906	20	98
Gravel or Earth ..	6,160	20,666	192
Total ..	7,066	20,686	290
		Grand Total	28,042

Roads are divided into three classes, Trunk Roads, Secondary Trunk Roads and Feeder Roads. The first class constitutes the skeleton trunk road system on which the remainder of the road system of the country is built up. The framework consists of two main South to North roads: (*a*) Lagos—Ibadan—Ilorin—Kano, and (*b*) Port Harcourt — Enugu — Makurdi — Jos — Potiskum—N'guru, and four main lateral roads from West to East: (i) Shaki—Cyo—Akure—Benin—Enugu—Bamenda. (ii) Kistu — Ilorin — Lokoja — Katsina Ala. (iii) Yelwa — Bida — Abuja — Wamba — Jos — Biu — Yola. (iv) Sokoto—Funtua—Kano—Potiskum—Maiduguri.

Harbour Facilities

The principal ports are Lagos, Burutu, Warri, Sapele, Akassa, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Victoria.

Lagos.—Minimum bar draught—27 feet.

LAGOS PORT ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation	*No. of Ships*	*Draught*
Marina Buoys	5	21 ft. to 24 ft.
Apapa Wharf	4	26 ft.
Customs Wharf	3	25 ft.
Port Anchorage and Buoys ..	6	19 ft. to 27 ft.
Government Dockyard ..	3	19 ft.
U.A.C. Wharf	1	25 ft.
Government Oil Wharf ..	1	25 ft.
Ijora Wharf	2	18 ft.
Iddo Pool	1	18 ft.

Vessels can work afloat at all states of the tide. Coal fuel can be served to vessels by tender or lighter, or can be taken direct from the dump. Fuel oil and industrial diesel oil can be obtained alongside the Government oil wharf. The Marine Dockyard maintain facilities for ocean going vessels up to 4,000 tons capacity. Twelve electrical luffing portal cranes are mounted at Apapa Wharf.

Burutu.—Burutu lies on the Forcados River 23 miles from Forcados Bar. Vessels for Warri and Burutu are advised to use the Escravos Bar, for which the maximum advised draught is 12 feet neap tides, and 13 feet M.L.W.S. Dredging is in progress. Burutu has three wharves, of 700, 300 and 300 feet in length, and five cranes. Clearance is by lighter and road transport.

Warri.—Warri is situated 30 miles up the Warri River. There are four small wharves owned by the United Africa Company and three pontoon wharves and one other wharf owned by John Holt & Co., Ltd. Clearance is by lighter and road transport.

Sapele.—Sapele is also approached over the Escravos Bar. It has two small wharves and a jetty.

Akassa.—Akassa is a bar harbour on the west bank of the Nun entrance of the River Niger. The maximum advised draught is 15 feet. It has one small wharf.

Port Harcourt.—Port Harcourt is situated 30 miles up the river from Bonny. Vessels may load up to 23 feet

Digitized by Google

maximum draught H.W.O.S.T. and 21 feet at neaps. Four vessels of length 430-470 feet can be accommodated at the main wharf, one at the buoys, and one, not exceeding 300 feet, at the coal conveyor. Discharging is direct into rail or road vehicles.

Calabar.—Calabar is situated 48 miles up river, and can accommodate six vessels of 430 feet, with maximum draught 20 feet, and one vessel of 350 feet. Discharge is into lighters.

Victoria.—There is anchorage for large vessels in Ambas Bay, with lighterage for cargo and passengers.

The tonnage of cargo (excluding coastwise) unloaded and loaded at Nigerian ports in 1950 was as follows :—

TONNAGE OF CARGO LOADED AND UNLOADED AT NIGERIAN PORTS IN 1950

Port	Tonnage unloaded		Tonnage loaded		Total
	British	Foreign	British	Foreign	
Lagos	573,604	236,808	573,795	150,219	1,534,426
Sapele	19,185	1	174,770	7,612	201,568
Warri	22,106	—	18,636	3,997	44,739
Burutu	20,295	8,887	17,103	15,940	62,225
Degema	45	4	66,474	8,015	74,538
Port Harcourt	123,837	24,091	236,379	14,791	399,098
Calabar	21,915	530	89,564	5,236	117,245
Other ports	17,784	328	67,627	—	85,739
	798,771	270,649	1,244,348	205,810	2,519,578

Shipping Services

Elder Dempster Lines maintain a regular mail service of sailings every three weeks in each direction between Liverpool and Lagos, a monthly service between Lagos and Rotterdam and Antwerp, and a monthly service between South Africa and Canada calling at West African ports. There are irregular services between Lagos and London, Calcutta, the United States of America, and Capetown. The United Africa Company and John Holt and Co. maintain services between Liverpool and other United Kingdom ports, and Lagos and West African ports.

American shipping companies provide services connecting West African ports with New York, every fortnight, and with New Orleans every month.

There are also services provided by Continental shipping firms with Gothenburg every month, with Hamburg, Antwerp, Dover, and Bordeaux three times a month, and with Genoa, Marseilles and Haifa every month. Occasional services are available for Dunkirk, Le Havre, Algiers, Casablanca and various French ports.

Inland Waterways

Nigeria has 4,000 miles of navigable waterways. These consist of the coastal and tidal creeks navigable from Porto Novo in Dahomey to Opobo on 4½ feet draught all the year round, and the main Niger-Benue and Cross River systems flowing from north to south, and dependent on seasonal rises for the navigability of draught of 4½ feet and more.

The Niger is navigable for 537 miles upstream to Jebba, and the high river season from Forcados to Jebba extends from July to October. During August to October vessels drawing 13 feet can reach Lokoja, and drawing 12 feet up to Baro. The Benue is navigable for 547 miles from Lokoja to Garua in the French Cameroons, with the high river season extending from July to October. The Cross River is navigable for vessels of draught not exceeding 10 feet from July to October as far as Ikom, 200 miles from Calabar, and in September vessels drawing 7½ feet can go a further 85 miles up to Mamfe. All three rivers are encumbered with sandbanks, with rocky stretches in their upper reaches.

Aviation and Meteorological Services

Air service operations in and through Nigeria have developed with trunk routes operated by B.O.A.C., K.L.M., Air France, Sabena and Swissair, and occasional operations by Airwork, Lebanese airlines, and non-scheduled operators.

Kano airport is open throughout the 24 hours, and many operating companies, including K.L.M., Air France and Sabena have taken advantage of its facilities. Kano is a port on the main routes connecting Brussels and Johannesburg (Sabena), Amsterdam and Johannesburg (K.L.M.) and Paris, Duala and Brazzaville (Air France). Hermes aircraft of the B.O.A.C. operate a return service between the United Kingdom and Accra on five days in each week, with calls at Castel Benito, Kano and Lagos.

Internal services are operated by the West African Airways Corporation, which has a fleet of "Doves" operating 34 services weekly within Nigeria, and connecting Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Zaria, Kano, Jos, Yola, Maiduguri, Katsina, Sokoto, Enugu, Benin, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Tiko.

Control of air traffic in Nigeria is exercised at Kano and Lagos. From these two centres meteorological protection is afforded, and search and rescue facilities co-ordinated. There is a network of direction-finding stations and radio beacons. Radar approach aids are installed at Kano and Lagos. Since 1947 the Nigerian Government has been responsible for the provision of meteorological facilities, which are equally of advantage for marine and agricultural purposes.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Of the total estimated area of the territory of 372,674 square miles it is provisionally estimated that some 30,000 square miles are under arable cultivation annually. Owing, however, to the general practice of "Shifting Cultivation" as a characteristic of Nigerian agriculture, an area of approximately nine times this magnitude represents the reserve of fallow land recuperating annually by a process of natural bush regeneration. The retention of this fallow area on an adequate scale is essential to the maintenance of soil fertility under indigenous systems of agriculture. Pasture land is at present of importance only to nomadic stock owners found chiefly in the Northern Provinces.

Estimates of the areas of principal crops and crop production in recent years are :—

CROP PRODUCTION

Crop	Acreage	Average yield per acre	Total estimated crop
		lbs.	tons
Groundnuts ..	2,675,000	560 (decorticated)	551,000
Oil Palms ..	2,600,000	280 (oil)	325,000
		224 (kernels)	350,000
Yams	1,418,000	5,600	3,545,000
Cotton ..	700,000	150 (seed cotton)	50,000
Cocoa ..	544,487	500	100,000
Guinea Corn and Millet ..	11,370,000	500	2,540,000
Benniseed ..	160,000	200	14,000
Rice	125,000	900	50,000
Cassava.. ..	945,000	7,280	3,000,000
Maize	750,000	400	134,000
Cocoyams ..	300,000	4,480	600,000

A census of Nigerian agriculture is being taken at present in connection with the F.A.O. world census of agriculture.

There has been no general soil survey since 1938, when a paper was published by the Department of Agriculture, describing very broadly the soils found in various parts of the country, classified on the basis of their geological origin and laboratory examination. Some localized surveys related to specific production as land settlement schemes have been made subsequently.

Digitized by Google

Natural flood irrigation is utilized in certain rivers in areas of the Northern Provinces for the cultivation of swamp rice and sorghum. Some small scale irrigation schemes are in operation. Irrigation surveys in Niger and Sokoto Provinces have been carried out and training courses to give assistants an elementary knowledge of surveying have been held.

Processing machinery, in the form of hand-operated palm oil presses and palm kernel crackers, and simple animal-drawn sugar cane crushers have been made available to producers for some years. A number of power-operated rice mills have been introduced in the past year for the benefit of rice growers in addition to the two already installed in the Northern Provinces, and in the Eastern Provinces Pioneer Oil Mills have been established by the Department of Commerce and Industries to provide more efficient extraction methods for the oil palm industry.

Mechanical cultivation has not hitherto played any part in Nigerian agriculture, but experimental work on a substantial scale is under way. An Agricultural Engineering Branch of the Department of Agriculture has been created, equipment secured and a number of experimental farms established in different parts of the country to accommodate this work. In Sokoto, for example, the Regional Production Development Board has put up £136,000 for the capital cost of machinery to assist rice cultivation.

The Nigerian farmer does not use fertilizers or manures on any large scale. It is customary to manure the area immediately surrounding the house with sweepings, and household rubbish, and to rely for the maintenance of fertility in the main farms on periodical bush fallows. This system is effective when there is no shortage of land. In the Eastern Provinces it is in process of breaking down under the force of increasing population and consequent shortening of the fallow period. As the soils over considerable areas are derived from sedimentary formations giving poor reserves of plant nutrients, degradation is liable to be rapid. By means of demonstration plots, a campaign to encourage the use of artificial fertilizers has been started.

In the Western Provinces on soils derived from basement complex rocks, the value of green manuring is well established by experimental work. It does not, however, appeal to the African, as he can cultivate the same area of land for several years without any manuring, and there is no shortage of land to upset the fallowing system.

In the Northern Provinces, the value of cattle manure is fairly generally appreciated. The usual method of application is to allow nomadic cattle to graze over farms at the end of the rains, and the limited area on which they are kraaled at night is directly manured by their droppings. Farmers who keep cattle for ploughing are urged to make proper farmyard manure in a pen. Experimental work in the North has demonstrated the value of artificial fertilizers and a major campaign to popularize the use of superphosphate is now under way. The Regional Production Development Board has put up £250,000 for this work.

In the Northern Provinces there has been a continual increase in the practice of "mixed farming" whereby farmers are encouraged to keep livestock for both ploughing and manure purposes. At the end of 1948 there were 4,720 such farmers; by September, 1950, their number had increased to about 7,000.

Problems of disease and pest control are handled by the Botanical and Entomological sections of the Department of Agriculture, and now cover swollen shoot disease and blackpod in cocoa, the tobacco beetle as a pest of stored cocoa, heliopelitis and bollworm as pests of cotton, and chrysops research. Locust breeding grounds are also reconnoitred.

Animal husbandry is largely confined to the Northern Provinces. In the Western Provinces the Yoruba are not accustomed to practice any form of animal husbandry, and in the centre and south of Nigeria tsetse fly is so prevalent as wholly to preclude the keeping of livestock in some areas. Experiments have been initiated with the new drug antrycide, and preliminary observations have been encouraging, although a detailed appreciation of its value cannot yet be made.

There are no reliable figures for the number of livestock in Nigeria. Estimates are based on Jangali (cattle tax) and Native Administration tax returns, but are probably low. The following figures for livestock in Nigeria can only be regarded as establishing the order of magnitude of the various kinds of livestock in the country :—

Goats	5½ million
Cattle	4 „
Sheep	2½ „
Equines	¾ „
Swine	½ „

Local Food Products

Whilst valuable surpluses of agricultural products are available for export, notably palm kernels and palm oil, cocoa and rubber, from the Southern Provinces, groundnuts and benniseed from the North and cotton from both areas, the production of foodstuffs for local consumption is still the most important part of Nigerian agriculture. The main food crops in the Southern Provinces are yams (partly consumed as yam flour), cassava (partly used as "gari" or farina), coco-yam, maize and rice, various species of legumes (cowpeas, pigeon-peas, lima-beans), plantains, palm oil, oranges and bananas. In the Northern Provinces with a reduced rainfall root crops are less important and cereals are the staple food: guinea corn, maize, millet and rice, groundnuts, beans and cassava. In the middle belt of the country both grain and root crops are grown and this is essentially a food-producing area supplying surpluses for export to other areas, particularly to those parts of the Eastern Provinces which through low soil fertility and over-population are not self-supporting, and there is little preoccupation with export crops except benniseed, which is also widely used as a local foodstuff.

All Nigerian produced meat is consumed within the country except for small occasional shipments of cattle to the Gold Coast. The main producing areas are all within the Northern Provinces, and cattle are transported to the large markets in the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions, mainly on the hoof. Goats and sheep are slaughtered locally in the villages in large numbers, but there is no large-scale movement of these animals for meat. Pigs are slaughtered locally in non-Mohammedan areas. There is a considerable trade in milk and butter between cattle owners and the town dwellers and a dairy scheme is in progress at Vom and Kumbu in the Plateau Province where cream is now produced for butter making, and milk for cheese and clarified butter fat. The scheme envisages several hundred units making clarified butter fat to be offered to Native Administrations for sale in areas where there is a fat deficiency in the diet of the people.

Cash Crops

The main cash crops produced for export are cocoa, palm kernels, palm oil, groundnuts, benniseed and cotton. As the prices of these commodities which are quoted on the various terminal markets of the world fluctuate from day to day, the tendency in pre-war years was for the purchase price paid for exports to fluctuate accordingly. When war broke out it was apparent that for shipping and other reasons it would be impossible for the crops to be marketed through the usual channels, and His Majesty's Government accordingly undertook the purchase of cocoa and oilseeds through the agency of the Ministry of Food in the first instance, these functions later being transferred to the West African Produce Control Board. Under these new marketing arrangements a price per ton

Digitized by Google

was guaranteed to the producer in advance of the season and a reasonable remuneration was fixed for the middleman.

This control ran smoothly, and from the profits which accumulated from the difference between the price paid to the producer and that earned in the world's markets, a sum of £1,250,000 was made available to the then recently created West African Cocoa Research Institute. The remainder of the surplus was voted for financing the formation of a marketing organization which would insulate the price paid to the farmer from the day-to-day fluctuations of the world price. This proposal, which was endorsed by the Legislative Council of Nigeria, was brought into being by the establishment in October, 1947, of the Cocoa Marketing Board and in April, 1949, of the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board, the Groundnut Marketing Board and the Cotton Marketing Board, the marketing of oilseeds and cotton in the interim being carried on by the West African Produce Control Board.

After the war, with the raising of price ceilings in the U.S.A. in 1946 the world shortage of cocoa, oilseeds and cotton led to rapidly rising prices—the price of cocoa for example averaged £200 per ton in 1948 compared with £20 per ton in 1938. At the same time industrial production, upon which Nigeria depended for the large majority of her imports, had not returned to normal, and the supply was insufficient to meet fully Nigerian demands. To have increased the price paid to the producer, in these circumstances, to the level of world prices, would have caused a serious inflationary pressure. The Marketing Boards therefore decided on a small increase in price to the producer, the remainder being set aside in a stabilization fund to supplement the price to the producer should the world price suffer a heavy decline. The amount standing to the credit of the various Marketing Boards in Nigeria at 31st March, 1950, was about £53 million.

In June, 1949, a series of agreements was concluded between the Ministry of Food and the Nigerian Produce Marketing Company, acting as agent for the various Produce Marketing Boards, whereby the Ministry agreed to purchase for the next three years all the Nigerian exports of groundnuts, palm kernels, palm oil, benniseed, cotton seed and their derivatives. The Ministry has guaranteed a minimum price for each year, the actual price to be paid for the season being subject to annual negotiation. A similar long-term selling agreement has been concluded with the Raw Cotton Commission for the sale of cotton lint.

The importance of cash crops in the Nigerian economy can be assessed from the fact that, in 1950, agricultural exports, together with hides and skins, accounted for approximately 90 per cent of total exports by value in that year. Chief exports were cocoa which earned almost £19 million (including the surplus accruing to the Marketing Board), groundnuts (£15 million), palm kernels (£16·9 million), palm oil (£11·3 million), rubber (£2·5 million), cotton and cotton seed (£436,725), bananas (£1·7 million) and benniseed (£·7 million); hides and skins accounted for £6·4 million, whilst timber exports, including veneers, realized £2·5 million.

Total revenue from export duties in 1950 was £3,883,271. This was almost entirely from agricultural produce since the only non-agricultural export bearing an export duty is tin, the duty on which amounted to about £4,400.

Cocoa

The principal area of production is in the Western Provinces and more particularly in Oyo and Ondo districts; there are less important production areas in Calabar and in the Eastern Province.

Since virtually all cocoa produced and gathered is exported, figures of exports may be taken as indicative of amounts produced. Exports of cocoa since 1938 have been as follows:—

EXPORTS OF COCOA, 1938–1950

	Tons	*Value* £		*Tons*	*Value* £
1938 ..	97,100	1,566,684	1945..	77,004	2,150,376
1939 ..	113,841	1,775,594	1946..	100,186	3,778,507
1940 ..	89,737	1,583,128	1947..	110,793	10,650,131
1941 ..	104,681	1,769,408	1948..	91,449	7,458,580
1942 ..	59,937	1,042,570	1949..	103,637	14,697,228
1943 ..	87,487	1,542,206	1950..	99,947	18,984,000
1944 ..	70,051	1,337,563			

The valuation of cocoa in the above table for the years 1939-41 is based on the price paid to the producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage, i.e., the f.o.b. cost price, and does not reflect world prices. The difference between the f.o.b. cost price and the actual selling price, less expenses, is credited to the funds of the Cocoa Marketing Board. Exports in 1949 and 1950 are valued at the f.o.b. sale price.

The Lagos ex-scale prices per ton paid for cocoa in the 1948-49 and subsequent seasons are:—

Season	Grade I £	Grade II £	Grade III £	Grade IV £
1948-49 ..	120	115	105	90
1949-50 ..	100	95	75	—
1950-51 ..	120	110	—	—

These prices represent an appreciable increase on recent years as can be seen from comparison with average Grade II cocoa prices paid since the 1941-42 season:—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1941-42 ..	14 10 0	1945-46 ..	25 11 0
1942-43 ..	12 2 6	1946-47 ..	47 1 0
1943-44 ..	12 1 0	1947-48 ..	60 0 0
1944-45 ..	21 10 0		

The result of these price increases combined with a high level of production has been to make cocoa the largest single agricultural export by value, exceeding that of palm oil and palm kernels, since 1947.

It is not possible to assess with any accuracy the effect of price on production since climatic factors play a large part in determining yield. There is evidence, however, that the enhanced prices obtained for cocoa in recent years has led to increased planting. As the cocoa tree takes upward of seven years under tropical conditions to bear fruit, the result of these new plantings may not be apparent for several years. According to a cocoa survey which has recently been undertaken, the average age of cocoa trees in the main producing areas is high; this is thought to be due to years of low prices in the immediate pre-war era which discouraged new planting. As many farms cease to be productive after 20 years, it would seem possible that, until the recent new plantings come into bearing, there may be a decline in production.

Efforts are being made to improve the quality of cocoa marketed from Nigeria and to this end a substantially higher price is paid for Grade I and Grade II cocoa. This price policy has already achieved a large measure of success as the following figures show:—

PURCHASES OF COCOA, BY GRADES (%)

	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
	%	%	%	%	%
Grade I ..	22·6	47·0	76·0	93·2	97·3
Grade II ..	1·6	24·7	21·2	6·7	2·7
Grade III ..	18·2	21·3	1·8	0·1	—
Grade IV ..	55·2	7·0	1·0	—	—

No cocoa lower than Grade III was purchased by the Board in the 1949-50 season, and in 1950-51 only Grade I and Grade II cocoa were purchased.

At the same time, research is being undertaken with a view to producing a strain which will yield more

Digitized by Google

abundantly whilst retaining the hardiness of the present strain. The measure of success achieved in this sphere will not be apparent until the new plantings come into bearing.

The chief diseases of the cocoa tree in Nigeria are black-pod disease and swollen shoot. The incidence of the former is increased by heavy rain in the early months of fruiting and, in 1946-47 for example, was estimated to have been responsible for the destruction of more than 30 per cent of the main crop in the Western Provinces. Swollen shoot disease has appeared in several areas in Oyo Province and an intensive campaign to cut out diseased trees is being undertaken, rehabilitation grants, from the Cocoa Marketing Board's funds, being paid at the rate of 2s. 6d. per tree replanted. Trees cut out since 1946 totalled 1,516,400 by March, 1951, and compensation paid £193,000.

A five-year programme for the rehabilitation of the cocoa areas at a cost of over £1 million has been drawn up.

Palm Products

Oil palms are indigenous to Southern Nigeria, the main producing area being Eastern Provinces which are mainly dependent on oil palm products for their cash income. Production of oil and kernels is almost entirely in the hands of individuals, the oil being extracted from the fleshy pericarp of the fruit while the inner nuts are cracked by women and children to extract the kernels.

Nigeria is the world's largest exporter of palm kernels, exports since 1938 having been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF PALM KERNELS 1938-1950

	Tons	*Value*		*Tons*	*Value*
		£			£
1938	312,047	2,168,366	1945	292,588	3,496,464
1939	299,943	1,872,504	1946	277,242	4,160,262
1940	235,521	1,499,738	1947	316,376	6,203,944
1941	378,124	2,283,469	1948	327,174	6,262,253
1942	344,569	2,458,222	1949	375,835	12,323,227
1943	331,292	3,117,281	1950	415,906	16,940,000
1944	313,530	3,636,569			

The valuation of palm kernels since 1947 in the above table is based on the price paid to the producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage, i.e., the f.o.b. cost price. The difference between this price and the true f.o.b. selling price is as follows for the years 1947 to 1949 : 1947, £3,287,337 ; 1948, £5,188,844 ; 1949, £4,589,348. Exports in 1950 are valued at the f.o.b. selling price.

The price of palm kernels at the end of 1938 was approximately £5 per ton and it declined during the year to £4 5s. by August. After the outbreak of war the purchase of palm products was undertaken by His Majesty's Government and the price paid to the producer in October, 1939, for palm kernels was £5 5s. per ton. Changes in prices to producers per ton, naked ex-scale, port of shipment, since October, 1939, have been as follows :—

CHANGES IN PRICES PER TON NAKED EX-SCALE, PORT OF SHIPMENT, PAID FOR PALM KERNELS, 1939-1950

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
October, 1939 ..	5	5	0	January, 1946	11	2	6
February, 1940	5	11	3	February, 1947	16	15	0
June, 1940 ..	4	12	6	March, 1948..	21	0	0
December, 1941	5	12	6	January, 1949	26	0	0
September, 1942	6	2	6	January, 1950	26	0	0
September, 1943	8	2	6	December, 1950	32	0	0
January, 1944	9	2	6				

It will be noted that the main increase in price occurred in February, 1947, following the withdrawal of price controls in the United States, the sale price to the Ministry of Food increasing from £20 per ton in 1946 to £35 per ton in 1947. This was followed by further increases to £40 per ton in 1948 and £50 per ton in 1949.

The Ministry of Food undertook to purchase all Nigerian exports of palm kernels and palm oil in each of the three years from 1950 to 1952 inclusive. Minimum prices were agreed but the actual prices to be paid by the Ministry in any one year being matter for negotiation before the season commences. In anticipation of declining world prices for oilseeds, the minimum prices decline annually by about 10 per cent. Compared with the guaranteed minimum price of £45 per ton for palm kernels in 1950 the negotiated price was £46 10s. ; that for 1951 was £65 per ton. The prices guaranteed to the producer for 1950 and 1951 by the Nigerian Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board were £26 and £32 per ton respectively naked ex-scale at port ; the difference between this figure plus marketing expenses and the price realized in the world's markets is credited to a reserve fund which may be used in part to supplement the price to the producer in time of low world prices. A new contract was entered into with the Ministry of Food in September, 1951, the Ministry undertaking to purchase the exportable surplus to the end of 1955 at prices approximately current.

Nigerian exports of palm oil since 1938 have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF PALM OIL 1938-1950

	Tons	*Value*		*Tons*	*Value*
		£			£
1938	110,244	981,329	1945	114,199	1,894,005
1939	126,042	929,704	1946	100,885	2,050,855
1940	132,723	1,099,038	1947	125,954	3,241,936
1941	127,778	1,046,760	1948	139,204	3,880,653
1942	151,287	1,427,340	1949	170,145	7,218,687
1943	135,268	1,586,690	1950	173,010	11,291,000
1944	124,829	2,029,511			

The valuation of palm oil since 1947 in the above table is based on the price to producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage. The difference between this price and the true f.o.b. sale price is as follows for 1947 to 1949 : 1947, £1,796,224 ; 1948, £5,167,607 ; 1949, £4,691,404. Exports in 1950 are valued at f.o.b. selling price.

Palm oil is classified for purchase and export into edible and technical oil ; the former, introduced for the first time in 1950 covers oil having a free fatty acid content of less than 4½ per cent and is produced principally by the United Africa Company, Ltd., and the Cameroons Development Corporation. Technical oil is classified in five grades according to the free fatty acid content and in order to encourage production of higher grade oil the prices paid vary according to the grade produced. A new system of grading is being introduced in the 1951-52 season.

The price of palm oil at the end of 1938 was approximately £5 15s. per ton, but it declined during the year and was about £4 10s. per ton in August. After the outbreak of war the purchase of palm oil was undertaken, like that of palm kernels, by the Ministry of Food, but it soon became apparent that, if maximum production was to be pursued, some new body with a closer link with West Africa would have to take over this function. The West African Cocoa Board was the obvious choice and on taking over the purchase of oilseeds the Board's name was changed to the West African Produce Control Board. In April, 1949, the purchase and marketing of oilseeds in Nigeria was handed over to the Nigerian Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board. Price changes since 1939 are shown below. It will be observed that since 1946 different prices have been paid for the various grades of oil exported and that the difference in price between the

Digitized by Google

various grades has increased from year to year thereby creating an incentive to better quality production.

CHANGES IN PRICE TO PRODUCERS (NAKED EX-SCALE PORT HARCOURT FOR SOFTS) FOR PALM OIL, 1939-1950

		£ s. d.
September, 1939		4 17 6
October, 1939		6 7 6
November, 1939		6 15 0
February, 1940		6 15 0
June, 1940		5 15 0
January, 1941		5 18 9
February, 1942		6 18 9
May, 1942		9 8 9
October, 1943		9 8 9
January, 1944		11 10 0
	Grade	
January, 1946	I	17 0 0
	II	15 10 0
	III	14 10 0
	IV	13 15 0
	V	13 0 0
February, 1947	I	25 10 0
	II	23 5 0
	III	21 15 0
	IV	20 12 6
	V	19 10 0
March, 1948	I	32 5 0
	II	30 0 0
	III	28 10 0
	IV	27 7 6
	V	26 5 0
January, 1949	I	42 15 0
	II	37 2 6
	III	33 0 0
	IV	29 12 6
	V	26 5 0
January, 1950		As for 1949
	Edible	53 0 0
December, 1950	I	55 0 0
	II	43 0 0
	III	34 0 0
	IV	30 0 0
	Edible	71 0 0

As in the case of palm kernels, the Ministry of Food has contracted to purchase all Nigerian exports of palm oil until the end of 1952. Minimum prices, which decline annually by about 10 per cent have been agreed and the actual price paid will be negotiated before the season commences; actual prices negotiated for 1950 and 1951 (per ton c. and f. U.K.) are :—

	1951 £	1950 £
Edible oil	110 0 0	82 0 0
Technical "A"	94 0 0	70 10 0
" "B"	92 10 0	69 0 0
" "C"	91 0 0	67 10 0

The future prospects of the industry depend largely on the extent to which the production of high-grade oil can be developed. In addition to the financial incentive provided in the form of higher prices for better grade oil, attempts are being made to introduce improved strains and to improve yield and reduce the free fatty acid content by the introduction of hand presses and Pioneer oil mills. The purchase of Grade V oil was discontinued after 1950.

Groundnuts

Groundnuts are grown extensively in the light sandy soils of the Northern Provinces, particularly in Kano and Katsina. Quantities exported annually since 1938 have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF GROUNDNUTS 1938-1950

	Tons	*Value* £		*Tons*	*Value* £
1938	180,136	1,305,828	1945	176,242	2,696,439
1939	147,263	1,047,979	1946	285,668	5,675,416
1940	169,480	1,476,310	1947	255,866	6,270,047
1941	247,176	2,140,443	1948	245,155	6,785,330
1942	194,190	1,687,752	1949	378,321	12,046,459
1943	142,512	1,475,224	1950	311,221	14,990,000
1944	156,194	2,012,895			

The valuation of groundnuts in the above table since 1947 is based on the price paid to the producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage, i.e., the f.o.b. cost price. The difference between this price and the f.o.b. selling price is as follows for the years 1947 to 1949 : 1947, £126,604 ; 1948, £3,020,870 ; 1949, £6,869,591. Exports in 1950 are valued at f.o.b. selling price.

Before the war the groundnut crop was purchased and marketed by the various commercial firms operating in Nigeria, the price paid fluctuating with the world price. In 1939 the Ministry of Food bought the whole of the Nigerian crop operating through established firms and in 1942 this responsibility was transferred to the West African Produce Control Board which in turn handed over the function to the Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board in April, 1949. Prices paid in Kano since 1939 have been as follows :—

CHANGES IN PRICE PER TON, NAKED EX-SCALE, KANO RAILHEAD, PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR GROUNDNUTS, 1939-1950

Season	*Price per ton* £ s. d.	*Season*	*Price per ton* £ s. d.
1939-40	5 11 8	1945-46	12 0 0
1940-41	5 7 6	1946-47	16 0 0
1941-42	5 7 6	1947-48	16 0 0
1942-43	6 10 0	1948-49	19 4 0
1943-44	9 0 0	1949-50	21 4 0
1944-45	12 0 0	1950-51	21 4 0

A contract was signed with the Ministry of Food whereby all Nigerian exports of groundnuts to 1952 inclusive, would be sold to the Ministry at a price agreed before the opening of the season ; minimum prices for each of the three years have been agreed. That for 1950 was £50 and the negotiated price £53. The negotiated price for 1951 was £70 per ton. The difference between the sale price to the Ministry and the price paid to the producer plus marketing expenses is paid into a reserve fund. A new contract was entered into with the Ministry of Food in September, 1951, the Ministry undertaking to purchase the exportable surplus to the end of 1955 at approximately current prices.

Attempts are being made to increase production in existing groundnut areas by the use of superphosphates. A new area near Mokwa in Niger Province is being developed, financed jointly by the Colonial Development Corporation and the Nigerian Government. The project provides for an initial pilot scheme of 31,360 acres of which 28,800 acres will be under cultivation and 2,560 acres set aside for a training farm and an engineering school. When full production is reached annual output will be of the order of 3,600 tons of oilseeds and 3,900 tons of cereals.

Benniseed

The principal area of production is the Benue River area and about 90 per cent of the crop is produced in Benue Province. On rich land the plant makes excessive vegetative growth and gives a poor yield of seed ; it is, therefore, generally grown as the third course in the rotation. The area under benniseed in any year, therefore, depends partly on the area planted with yams two years earlier. Since benniseed grows well on a poor soil expansion of production might be achieved by planting in bush land

Digitized by Google

and there are said to be areas in the Ogoja area of Benue Province where a good seed yield might result from sowing direct on freshly cleared bush land.*

Exports of benniseed since 1938 have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF BENNISEED 1938-1950

	Tons	*Value*		*Tons*	*Value*
		£			£
1938	17,743	152,200	1945	6,738	79,176
1939	16,158	116,908	1946	7,334	76,993
1940	8,070	70,134	1947	5,698	78,332
1941	8,793	83,327	1948	7,542	113,538
1942	22,094	189,374	1949	19,385	394,565
1943	12,535	137,417	1950	14,372	704,000
1944	3,775	44,494			

The valuation of benniseed in the above table since 1947 is based on the price paid to the producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage, i.e., the f.o.b. cost price. The difference between this price and the f.o.b. selling price is as follows for the years 1947 to 1949 : 1947, £64,118 ; 1948, £188,142 ; 1949, £574,685. Exports in 1950 are valued at f.o.b. selling prices.

Between 1938 and 1942 prices fluctuated between £7 and over £9 per ton. In 1942 a controlled price of £7 per ton was imposed and remained unchanged until the 1947-48 season when it was raised to £15 per ton. This was followed by a further rise to £18 per ton in the 1948-49 season, and £20 per ton (in 1949-50). The decline in exports between 1942 and 1945 may be chiefly due to the large proportion of the younger able-bodied men who joined the Services during the war or transferred their labour to the tin mines. The fact that considerable amounts in cash were remitted to the area during the war from soldiers' allowances may have been a further factor combatting against increased production.

The Ministry of Food has undertaken to purchase all exports of benniseed from Nigeria over the period to the end of 1952 at the same price as is paid for groundnuts. The agreed minimum price for the 1949-50 season was £50 per ton and the price negotiated £53 per ton ; the agreed minimum for 1951 was £45 per ton and the negotiated price £70 per ton.

As there is no appreciable overlap between the groundnut and benniseed areas a drive to increase benniseed production can be and is being made without detriment to groundnut production. Weeding and thinning has been proved to increase yield by over 100 per cent, and this, combined with improved methods of harvesting should result in increased production.

Cotton

Cotton is grown by individual cultivators over a wide range of conditions in Nigeria from the dry scrub thorn of the north to the high forest in the south. Much of the cotton is absorbed by the local spinning and weaving industry. Production for export originates mainly from east Sokoto, south Katsina and north Zania Province.

The variety grown in the Northern Provinces is Allen's Long Staple, which has a high reputation for uniformity and reliability and sells well in the Lancashire market. A peripheral zone round the export area grows a punctatum cotton for local use. The other producing areas are the middle belt of Nigeria in the Niger and Benue valleys and on the northern fringe of the forested areas of Oyo, Abeokuta, Ondo and Benin provinces. In these two regions barbadense " native " types of cotton are the chief variety grown, and the crop is raised in a mixed cropping system being planted between yams, corn and beans ; these cottons produce a harsh. stout lint of poor colour. An improved Ishan cotton has been introduced for export, but very little is grown since the local textile industry will pay more for native cotton than is obtained from top quality seed cotton for export. As cotton in the middle southern belts of Nigeria competes with food crops produced for sale to the cocoa, kola, and oil palm belts in the south, it is unlikely that an export surplus of cotton will be forthcoming under present conditions.

* Col. No. 211.

Exports of raw cotton since 1938 in centals of 100 lbs. have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON, 1938-1950

	Centals	*Value* £		*Centals*	*Value* £
1938	128,335	246,855	1945	23,743	63,601
1939	98,202	191,423	1946	148,108	406,727
1940	209,023	621,672	1947	117,545	323,053
1941	229,263	619,202	1948	103,824	400,918
1942	414,788	1,126,709	1949	199,680	614,169
1943	160,204	437,442	1950	282,755	2,975,000
1944	96,945	263,893			

To arrive at the true f.o.b. value for the years 1947-49 in the above table, the following amounts should be added : 1947, £196,499 ; 1948, £74,867 ; 1949, £833,511.

Cotton is now marketed by the Nigerian Cotton Marketing Board and exports purchased by the Raw Cotton Commission. Consequent upon the revaluation of the dollar-sterling exchange rate sale prices of cotton increased considerably and current exports should therefore increase the Board's reserve fund which will be used, *inter alia*, for a thorough study of the industry.

Rubber

The main area of rubber production is the Benin-Warri area. During the second World War, following the conquest of Malaya by the Japanese, Nigerian rubber was in increasing demand and exports rose annually reaching their peak in 1946. The following table shows exports of rubber since 1938 :—

EXPORTS OF RUBBER 1938-1949

	Tons	*Value*		*Tons*	*Value*
1938	3,135	135,797	1945	10,519	1,220,207
1939	2,824	128,108	1946	11,448	1,403,795
1940	2,902	264,951	1947	7,445	676,905
1941	2,055	245,214	1948	8,019	719,040
1942	6,667	663,515	1949	6,858	591,121
1943	7,365	794,306	1950	13,100	2,488,000
1944	9,395	1,069,638			

Forestry

Nigeria is in the main a country, not of rich tropical evergreen forests, but of savannah woodland. This savannah woodland, of tall grass beneath small trees of " orchard " habit and distorted by the annual grass fires, is veined along its water courses by narrow " fringing forests," tall, closed and often containing good timber, but the predominating evergreen and continuous Rain Forest is confined to a coastal belt which is much farmed. The Rain Forest alone can furnish export timber in quantity, and the Savannah woodlands are limited to the supply of small dimensioned lumber and firewood for local use.

The tree growth of Nigeria is of vast economic importance without being a potential source of great wealth. Its prime importance lies in the fact that the re-growth of trees and shrubs is the only safeguard for the maintenance of soil fertility available under a primitive system of peasant agriculture. The greater part of the woodland and forest growth in Nigeria must not therefore be classed as forest but as an essential agricultural fallow. At the present time this " bush fallow " is the main source of the firewood which is the only fuel of the peasantry, and of their domestic requirements in small timber.

Expansion of agriculture is tending to shorten the fallow period and therefore to decrease the volume of timber and fuel produced, while urbanization is increasing the demand for organized, as apart from casual, supplies of forest produce. Nigeria's forest resources will in a measurable time be limited to the Forest Reserves which are definitely allocated to forest growth and managed for increased production, as apart from the " bush " needed for agricultural fallow. These reserves alone

Digitized by Google

are the permanent forest resources of Nigeria. They can only be secured by the consent of the local communities who own them, and it is often a difficult matter to obtain this consent. In the Southern Provinces which cover the Rain Forest zone, reservation is as complete as is practicable when due allowance has been made for agriculture. It amounts to 14·8 per cent of land area in the Western Region and 9·6 per cent of land area in the Eastern Region. In the Northern Region lack of Government Forestry Service staff has prevented an equivalent advance. Reserves cover 6·4 per cent of the Region, but ample land is still available and considerable progress in reservation will be possible. The percentage of Nigeria so far set aside as permanent forest is 7·9 per cent.

The most recent estimates place productive forest resources, which are from a Forestry point of view developed, at 86 square miles of mangrove forest, 2,945 square miles of high forest and 465 square miles of savannah woodland. Undeveloped but permanent forest resources are estimated at 40 square miles of mangrove, 3,591 square miles of high forest and 16,080 square miles of savannah woodland. The agricultural woodland fallows and unclassed forests, some part of which may be, but is not yet, legally set aside as forest, are placed at 4,323 square miles of mangrove, much of it of extremely poor quality, 16,449 square miles of high forest secondary growth and 83,026 square miles of savannah woodland.

It is tentatively estimated that high forest under management will produce an average of four cubic feet per annum per acre of merchantable timber with a sustained yield, which it is hoped to increase in time to 10 cubic feet per annum per acre, and that savannah woodland under management will produce 17 cubic feet per annum per acre of small dimensioned timber and firewood.

The following table gives an indication of the value of the forestry resources.

TIMBER EXPORTS—PRINCIPAL COMMODITIES

Commodity	1949		1950	
	cu. ft.	*Value* £	*cu. ft.*	*Value* £
Mahogany ..	380,833	113,983	884,078	254,160
Afara	195,423	46,332	261,935	68,381
Agba	500,291	95,845	1,040,723	225,567
Abura	641,165	151,196	2,284,257	617,514
Logs, other kinds	400,378	78,990	439,977	103,293
Veneers	127,548	76,527	82,849	48,696

Domestic exports of minor forest products were as follows in 1950 :—

EXPORTS OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCTS, 1950

Items	*Tonnage*	*Value* £
Beeswax	51	13,898
Fibres	2,326	171,670
Gum Arabic	1,089	62,153
Gum, other kinds ..	132	20,497
Shea-nuts	3,307	53,425

Fisheries

Fishing both in inland and coastal waters is carried out extensively by Nigerian and Gold Coast fishermen and fisherwomen using nets and traps. All inland waters and estuaries are heavily fished and no effective conserving measures are employed. There is considerable variation in the productivity of inland water and certain areas, in spite of intensive fishing, give a consistently greater return than others. Fishing in the open sea is not extensively practised.

The greater part of the catch is cured by heat and smoke, giving a product much appreciated by the people. As the demand for both fresh and smoked fish greatly exceeds the supply there is no exportable surplus. On the contrary, there is a large import of dried unsalted fish and canned fish (4,168 tons in 1950, valued at £647,868).

Two forms of development of the fishing industry are contemplated. Exploratory work on fish farming has been undertaken at Lagos during 1948 and 1949, combined with a training school for fishermen. Experiments in trawling have been carried out from a small motor fishing boat in inland waters and from a 45 foot motor fishing vessel at sea. To encourage new technique, demonstrations of more seaworthy canoes and various types of gear have been conducted along the coast from the eastern frontier of Nigeria to Forcados.

West African Fisheries and Cold Store (Nigeria), operated by the Colonial Development Corporation, is undertaking deep-sea trawling off the West African coast and will land fresh fish on ice at the undertaking's cold stores at Lagos and Port Harcourt whence it will be distributed by road and rail.

Minerals

Minerals in Nigeria are vested in the Crown. In 1900, however, an agreement was made with the Royal Niger Company under which half of the royalties on all minerals worked in Northern Nigeria in an area bounded in the west by the main stream of the Niger, and on the east by a line running from Yola to Zinder are shared equally by the Government and the Company for a period of 90 years. Up to the end of 1948 the total payments to the Niger Company and its successor the United Africa Company, on account of royalties, including a half share of revenue from mineral rents and fees, has been of the order of £3 million. The rights of the Company have now been purchased by Government for £1 million.

The chief mineral export from Nigeria is tin which in 1950 earned £4,138,058 of a total of £4,457,316 received in respect of mineral exports. Columbite, a by-product of tin-mining, earned £310,813, and coal exports were valued at £5,480. Lead, zinc and gold are produced in small quantities.

Tin

Tin is mined in the Plateau Province of Northern Nigeria. Reserves are estimated at 112,400 tons of which 49,540 tons have been proved, 22,410 tons indicated and 39,450 tons inferred. Present output is about 12,000 tons per annum (12,695 tons in 1948, 12,172 tons in 1949). It would therefore appear that output cannot be maintained at the current rate for more than 10 years unless major new discoveries are made or ground of appreciably lower grade than the present can be profitably worked. Since the tin mines provide employment for some 52,000 African workers (including tributers) annually and pay wages amounting on the average to over £1 million, the cessation of tin-mining would have an appreciable effect on the Nigerian economy.

Exports of tin ore since 1938 have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF TIN ORE, 1938-50

	Tons	*Value* £		*Tons*	*Value* £
1938	10,486	1,435,157	1945	15,166	3,129,265
1939	14,554	2,368,324	1946	13,929	2,860,998
1940	14,843	2,726,911	1947	14,090	4,091,149
1941	18,401	3,489,831	1948	12,169	4,241,393
1942	16,557	3,207,970	1949	12,676	4,684,789
1943	17,449	3,441,290	1950	11,417	4,138,000
1944	18,178	3,823,599			

Coal and Lignite

Coal is mined by the Nigerian Coal Corporation at Enugu where there are known reserves of 28 million tons ; coal has also been discovered at Kolori in Northern Nigeria. Annual production of coal is of the order of 600,000 tons. The coal is friable and therefore unsuitable for ships' bunkers ; most of it is used in Nigeria and the Gold Coast by the railways.

During the year ended 31st March, 1949, the average number of men at work daily at Enugu colliery was 6,002, and the amount disbursed in wages, etc., was of the order of £376,000.

Digitized by Google

There are large deposits of lignite in the tertiary rocks of Onitsha and Benin districts but so far these have not been exploited.

Columbite and Tantalite

More than 85 per cent of the world's supply of columbite is produced in Nigeria; exports in 1950 amounted to 1,051 tons.

The bulk of the columbite produced is obtained as a by-product of tin-mining, the remainder being won from alluvials containing little or no tin and from mixed columbite and tantalite alluvials at Egbe. The life of the columbite industry would therefore appear to be largely determined by the life of tin-mining.

As the U.S.A. is the chief market for columbite the American price largely determines the world price. Since the change in the dollar-sterling exchange rate the dollar price has increased, and this has meant a large increase in sterling receipts from columbite exports, a factor which may encourage producers to regard columbite as a mineral to be sought and considered as part of their ore reserves rather than merely a by-product.

Exports of columbite since 1943, when the first exports were recorded, are shown in the following table :—

EXPORTS OF COLUMBITE

	Tons	*Value* £		*Tons*	*Value* £
1943	831	156,469	1947	1,290	211,597
1944	1,567	288,330	1948	1,239	230,605
1945	1,975	341,509	1949	945	224,069
1946	1,438	232,747	1950	1,051	310,813

Gold

The chief sources of gold are in north-west Nigeria and the Oyo and Calabar provinces of southern Nigeria. Production has been largely derived from scattered small alluvial deposits, but a few lodes and veins have been worked to shallow depths mostly by open-cast methods. The gold quartz deposits are too irregular in structure and mineralization to be of interest to mining companies, and prospects of discovering any large deposits of gold do not appear favourable.

Total production of gold over the last forty years has been of the order of 355,000 ounces or an average of 8,875 ounces per annum. The year of maximum production was 1942 when 43,747 ounces were exported. Production has since declined, but with the increase in the official gold price from £8 12s. 6d. to £12 8s. 0d. per ounce a rise in production is to be expected.

Lead-silver-zinc

Great interest has been shown in the possible deposits of lead ores situated in the lower cretaceous belt which runs in a north-east direction up the Benue Valley with a south-west extension beyond Abakaliki. The area of this belt is approximately 22,000 square miles, and the whole of this belt is now held under Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences by the following companies :—

Mines Development Syndicate, Ltd.,
National Mining Corporation, Ltd.,
Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria, Ltd.

During 1948 geological reconnaissance was undertaken in all these Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences. In addition underground development as well as both underground and surface diamond drilling has been undertaken in one area. A small production of lead-zinc ore has been obtained while cleaning out old workings and during development.

Iron

Beds of colitic ironstones, associated with the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary systems, are known from a number of localities, the most favourably situated being that at Mt. Patti, close to the confluence of the Niger and Benue. These deposits are limonites with a high phosphorus content. They cover a considerable area.

Petroleum

Shell D'Arcy Exploration Company are engaged on prospecting and seismic work in the vicinity of Okigwi. Results to date are indefinite. It is hoped to extend this work to the Cross River and Creek areas from the deltas of the Cross River to those of the Niger.

Salt

The folded cretaceous rocks of the Benue valley provide many dilute brine springs now the centres of small salt industries. Some of these might be developed into important sources of salt if the cost of manufacture and distribution could be kept low enough.

Manufactures

Quantities of palm oil and groundnut oil continue to be manufactured by crude methods for local sale, and the number of small palm oil hand presses has increased. Traditional methods of extraction of palm oil for export are, however, wasteful in both oil and labour, and result in a product which, owing to a high free fatty acid content, is sold at a discount in the world markets. A scheme is now in force for establishing palm-oil mills, operated in the first instance by the Department of Commerce and Industries, and then handed over in due course to local organizations or interests. By the end of June, 1951, 28 of these mills were in operation of which 19 were operated by the Department of Commerce and Industries, three by the Cameroons Development Corporation, one by the Agricultural Department and five by private enterprise. A further 19 mills were under construction and the total programme envisages 167 mills—123 in Eastern Province, 41 in Western Province, and three in the Northern Region.

There is a large soap factory at Apapa, a smaller one at Kano and one under construction at Aba. The British American Tobacco Co., Ltd., have a large factory at Ibadan manufacturing cigarettes containing an increasing quantity of local tobacco; the factory employs 500 regular workers and produced over two million pounds of cigarettes in 1950. There is a brewery at Lagos and several small plants producing soda water and minerals for local consumption. There is also a sawmill and plywood factory at Sapele and a sawmill is planned at Omo under the auspices of the Colonial Development Corporation; there are numerous smaller sawmills in the timber producing areas. There are 11 Government-operated rice mills and four more were under construction at the end of 1950; there are also 10 privately owned rice mills in Eastern and Western regions. There are several large groundnut oil mills operated by private enterprise in Kano and the Department of Commerce and Industries has obtained material for six medium capacity groundnut oil mills. The erection of two 50-loom weaving mills, one at Kano and one at Lagos was almost complete at the end of 1950. Among projects under consideration are a cement factory, a sack factory, a can-making plant, and pineapple canning factory.

Nigeria produces cattle hides and goat and sheep skins of several different types and quality varying with the areas in which they are produced and the method of their preparation. In Sokoto Province the large red goats produce skins which, for the manufacture of glace kid, compare favourably with those from any other part of the world. In other parts of the country the goat skins are suitable for the production of suede. Almost all the hides and skins in the Northern Provinces are prepared for export and about three million pounds' worth are exported annually. The remainder are tanned locally for manufacture into shoes, saddlery, bags, cushions, etc. Instruction in improved methods of flaying and drying is given by Veterinary Department staff all over the country and the advisory capacity of the Department has been extended to tanning to assist local tanners to improve their methods.

Digitized by Google

Village Industries

Village industry is concerned chiefly with textile production, which takes the two main forms of weaving of cotton cloths, and the manufacture of cordage and mats from palm and other fibres. The crafts are indigenous throughout most parts of the country, but the methods employed are primitive and uneconomical. The number of people engaged in production must run into some hundreds of thousands of regularly occupied craftsmen, with a far greater number engaged in part-time and seasonal work. Spinning is carried out by women using distaffs, while both men and women take part in weaving, the men producing narrow strips and the women a broader cloth. Like all such industries, the Nigerian textile industry suffers from a shortage of home-spun yarn, the result of inefficiency in spinning. Sufficient raw cotton is produced in Nigeria to allow for considerable expansion in the industry, as a large quantity is at present exported as lint. On the other hand, there are large imports of yarn. One problem confronting the industry, therefore, is to find the best means by which the supply of local yarn can be supplemented to meet the needs of increased production. A textile development programme has accordingly been incorporated in the Ten-Year Development and Welfare Plan for Nigeria, with the principal object of improving technique and providing for expansion of textile manufacture along traditional lines as a village industry.

A preliminary survey was undertaken towards the end of 1945, and the main outlines of development were decided upon. The framework of the scheme is to establish eight territorial centres, each in charge of a textile or weaving supervisor. The object in establishing these centres is to investigate processes in use in the areas concerned, with a view to their improvement; to train local weavers in improved methods as a cadre for demonstration work; and to undertake research into various technical problems, such as dyeing and utilization of local yarns and fibres. A pre-condition for putting the plan into operation is the supply of suitable spinning machinery and looms, and it is possible that a profitable secondary industry in the manufacture of equipment will be established in due course. Seven textile training centres are now in operation. The training of weavers is beginning to prove its worth and the output of broad loom cloth is rapidly increasing. The bulk of the cloth produced is superior in quality to that previously produced in Nigeria. Efforts are being made to encourage the production of designs attractive to the African market, and weavers, who are now acquiring freedom in handling a new technique, show ability and confidence in designing cloth which is really Nigerian in character. The world shortage of dyestuffs has seriously hampered the production of designs incorporating colours suited to Nigerian requirements and an industrial chemist has been engaged to advise on the improved utilization of local dyes.

Other village industries include coloured leather work, and the making of brass and silver ware, pottery, mats, and baskets.

Other Economic Activities

Distributive Trade

The bulk of the import trade of Nigeria is handled by non-resident companies which distribute goods through their own widely distributed factors and through African middle-men, who in turn supply local shops and markets or themselves retail. Usually these factors are also buying agents through whom cash crops are purchased for export. The non-resident companies handle over 90 per cent of the purchases for export of palm oil, palm kernels, groundnuts and cocoa and the greater part of the import trade of the country, although there has been an increase in African enterprise engaged in the internal distributive trade in recent years.

There is an extensive internal trade in foodstuffs which is not confined to the movement of food to urban areas from the immediately surrounding country. Cattle and groundnuts move in quantity from the Northern Provinces to the Southern Provinces; fresh fruit, kola nuts, yams and garri (cassava flour) are railed from the south to the north whilst dried fish from the coastal belt, particularly the Niger delta, is marketed in the interior.

Co-operative Movement

Public funds were first voted in Nigeria in 1935 for the encouragement of co-operation at a time when no societies existed. There were by the end of March, 1950, 1,092 societies of various kinds with a total membership of over 65,500. Of these 309 societies with over 21,000 members were Cocoa Marketing societies, 314 Thrift and Loan societies with a membership of 14,285, and 388 Thrift and Credit societies with a membership of over 14,000. The Cocoa societies handled almost 10 per cent of the cocoa crop in 1949-50, but there is much need for greater financial economy in their operations. Thrift and Loan societies had assets of £359,763, but the management of their affairs calls for much improvement. More than half the assets are held by the 56 societies in Lagos and the Colony. The great majority of the Thrift and Credit societies are in the Calabar Province, and of 200 societies in that area over 40 are composed exclusively of women. There are 10 craftsmen's societies.

The only organizations for centralizing co-operative finances are the Calabar Thrift and Credit Union, to which 132 societies were affiliated, and which had £3,265 out on loan at 31st March, 1950, and the Association of Nigerian Co-operative Exports, which finances the purchase of cocoa by its affiliated unions and societies, from funds deposited with it and from overdraft facilities granted by a commercial bank.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

Nigeria is largely a country of peasant farmers and, compared with the total population, the number in paid employ is small. From returns of numbers of employees submitted by firms employing more than 10 persons it was estimated that some 247,000 persons were in paid employ at the end of 1949. Government is the largest employer of paid labour; including Native Administration, Government employed about 57 per cent of paid labour, the two largest employing departments being the Nigerian Railways and the Public Works Department. Other workers find employment in the tin mines, rubber and timber industries and in the service of commercial firms.

Government's labour rates are based on the report of a committee set up to recommend consolidated wage rates and cost-of-living allowances for employees not coming within the permanent establishment. Labour is now divided, for wage purposes, into the three categories of general labour, special labour and skilled artisans, and the country is divided into six geographical zones. Rates for the various categories are prescribed for the different zones, and in 1950 varied from 9d. to 2s. 11d. per diem for general labour, and from 1s. 1d. to 4s. 3d. per diem for special labour according to locality, while artisans received from 5s. 6d. to 16s. 6d. per diem according to grade, with various rates of increment. The main European commercial firms pay wages comparable with those paid by Government, but considerably lower rates are often paid by small locally owned business firms and contractors. Minimum wage rates have been prescribed for certain occupations on the recommendation, after inquiry, of a Labour Advisory Board.

The standard working week for industrial employees is still one of 45 hours, although there are several occupations which work longer hours.

Migrant Labour

There is no organized migratory movement of labourers from outside territories for service in Nigeria. Small numbers of men from the neighbouring French territories come into Nigeria sporadically in pursuit of agricultural employment, and some of them find their way to the tin

Digitized by Google

mines of Northern Nigeria. Their comings and goings are irregular, and no statistics of their movements are available.

Within Nigeria there is a considerable migratory movement to Lagos, resulting in shortage of housing accommodation and some scarcity of consumer goods. There is also some migration of workers to the mining, timber and plantation areas. The mining areas attract large numbers of Hausas and pagans from Sokoto and other centres, and the timber and plantation areas are supplied by Ibo labour from Eastern Nigeria.

The main field for Nigerian migrant labour outside Nigeria is in the Spanish island of Fernando Po. The recruits are drawn from the thickly congested areas of the Eastern Provinces, and numbered 2,338 in 1950.

Arrangements have recently been made for the recruitment of Nigerian labour for the French colony of the Gabon. 832 Nigerians, mainly from Calabar and Owerri were recruited during 1950.

Fuel and Power

The principal sources of electric power are the coal deposits at Enugu and water power in the Plateau Province. Coal is utilized in power stations operated by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria which assumed the responsibility from Government on 1st April, 1951 (12) and Native Administrations (4), installed capacity being 22,875 kW. A further 50,140 kW. of generating capacity was on order at the end of 1950. Units generated in 1950 totalled 51,192,333 k.W.h.

Charges for electricity at the places named above are set out in the schedule to the Electric Energy Charges Regulations 1940, as subsequently amended. Different rates are quoted in the Regulations for residences, factories, and commercial purposes, as the following charges in respect of Lagos, now subject to 50 per cent increase, show :—

Residence rates

(*a*) Single-storey buildings : 9d. per kilowatt-hour up to ·7 kilowatt-hour per month per 100 sq. ft. of area of building and 1d. per kilowatt-hour for any additional current consumed.

(*b*) Two or more storey buildings : as for (*a*) with an additional ·7 kilowatt-hour per month per 100 sq. ft. of area of each floor above or below ground level.

Commercial rate

1d. per kilowatt-hour ; in addition a charge of 2s. per month per 100 watts or part thereof of all lamps installed in the premises.

Factory rate

3s. per month per brake horse-power or part of one brake horse-power of the electrical apparatus installed ; and in addition 1d. per kilowatt-hour for current consumed.

Separate rates are charged for bulk supply, general purposes, street lighting, etc.

The electricity undertakings at Vom and Jos purchase power in bulk from the Nigerian Electricity Supply Corporation which operates hydro-electric power stations at Kwall Falls, Kurra Falls, and Jekko Falls, the aggregate installed generating capacity of which is 12,000 kW. The Corporation is preparing to install a fourth station which will utilize the tailwaters of the existing station at Jekko Falls and have an installed capacity of 4,000 kW. While the Corporation supplies electricity for domestic requirements and small power purposes at Jos and Vom the bulk of its output is utilized by the tin-mining companies on the Plateau.

Potential hydro-electric power exists elsewhere but its development is likely to be difficult owing to the very high rates between wet and dry season river flows and expensive because of the distances separating the possible sites of power stations from the potential load centres. The increasing cost of coal production is proving an incentive to the search for sources of hydro-electricity hitherto considered uneconomic, and the Electricity Corporation has initiated a series of studies of available resources of hydro-electric energy and will keep under review the associated problems of irrigation and flood control.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The recent financial history of Nigeria is set out in the following table :—

SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

1937-38 to 1951-52

Year	*Total Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*
	£	£
1937-38	7,342,450	7,375,570
1938-39	5,811,087	6,867,409
1939-40	6,113,126	6,498,566
1940-41	7,273,157	7,254,325
1941-42	7,975,055	7,026,894
1942-43	9,034,154	8,998,795
1943-44	10,913,200	9,976,537
1944-45	11,444,757	10,132,599
1945-46	13,200,425	10,692,776
1946-47	14,832,438	14,051,688
1947-48	18,404,163	17,185,941
1948-49	23,810,894	23,898,427
1949-50	30,764,681	28,253,090
1950-51*	30,357,480	30,168,040
1951-52*	36,225,990	35,907,350

* Approved estimates

Digitized by Google

Revenue collections in recent years compared with 1938-39 are shown in the figures below :—

REVENUE OF NIGERIA, 1938–39, 1948–49, 1949–50 AND 1951–52

Detail	1938–39		1948–49		1949–50		1951–52†	
	Amount	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%
	£		£		£		£	
Ordinary Revenue								
Customs and Excise	2,472,293	42·54	12,622,677	53·02	17,195,312	55·89	21,834,000	60·27
Direct Taxes	853,180	14·68	3,776,843	15·86	4,830,448	15·70	4,535,000	12·52
Licences and Internal Revenue ..	138,735	2·39	414,219	1·74	414,161	1·35	373,370	1·03
Mining	111,590	1·92	546,361	2·29	669,422	2·18	779,330	2·15
Fees of Court, etc.	195,877	3·37	351,383	1·48	526,999	1·71	634,360	1·75
Marine	305,879	5·26	640,120	2·69	752,154	2·44	756,700	2·09
Posts and Telegraphs	157,892	2·72	493,874	2·08	550,093	1·79	625,000	1·73
Electricity and Water Supply Undertakings	189,406	3·26	382,745	1·61	480,591	1·56	87,230	0·24
Earnings of Government Departments	113,228	1·95	512,389	2·15	485,103	1·58	508,530	1·40
Rents of Government Property ..	59,835	1·03	248,770	1·04	282,084	0·92	253,170	0·70
Interest	893,665	15·38	1,107,473	4·65	1,080,019	3·51	1,040,520	2·88
Reimbursements	95,738	1·65	215,276	0·90	273,016	0·89	404,020	1·12
Miscellaneous	152,164	2·62	681,467	2·86	602,892	1·96	359,150	0·99
Land Sales	1,674	0·03	6,916	0·03	2,592	—	2,500	—
Total Ordinary Revenue	5,741,156	98·80	22,000,513	92·40	28,144,886	91·48	32,192,880	88·87
Extraordinary Revenue								
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	—	1·20	1,810,381	7·60	2,292,121	7·45	4,033,110	11·13
Miscellaneous*	69,931	—	—	—	327,674	1·07	—	—
Grand Total	5,811,087	100·00	23,810,894	100.00	30,764,681	100·00	36,225,990	100·00

* Includes £18,088 Colonial Development Fund.

† Approved Estimates.

An examination of revenue shows that approximately 75 per cent of ordinary revenues during the financial year 1948-49 was derived from Customs and Excise and Direct Taxes ; as a result of increased export duties and a rise in the Company Tax from 7s. 6d. to 9s. this percentage is expected to increase to about 82 per cent in the financial year 1951-52. Analysis of these two heads of revenue reveals the excessive dependence on Customs duties and Income Tax payable by companies, most of which are non-resident :—

ANALYSIS OF REVENUE FROM CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUES AND DIRECT TAXES 1949-50 AND 1951-52

Customs and Excise	*Actual Revenue* 1949-50	*Approved Estimates* 1951-52
	£	£
Import duties	11,666,353	11,400,000
Export duties	4,159,169	8,500,000
Excise duties	1,257,193	1,836,000
Shipping fees	24,672	24,000
Warehouse and Customs fees	75,551	62,000
Penalties, forfeitures and seizures	12,374	12,000
	17,195,312	21,834,000
Direct Taxes		
(*a*) Native Taxation—		
General Tax ..	323,328	324,800
Jangali	54,682	60,200
(*b*) Income Tax—		
Individuals ..	695,891	650,000
Companies ..	3,756,547	3,500,000
	4,830,448	4,535,000

The yield from Income Tax has increased progressively since its introduction in 1940 ; the apparent decline in 1946-47 is due to the fact that an exceptional amount of arrears was collected in 1945-46 :

REVENUE DERIVED FROM INCOME TAX— INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES

	£
1939-40	99,141
1940-41	280,737
1941-42	565,805
1942-43	864,421
1943-44	1,517,284
1944-45	1,370,714
1945-46	2,496,641
1946-47	2,004,721
1947-48	3,292,116
1948-49	3,776,843
1949-50	4,452,438
1950-51*	4,525,000

*Revised Estimates.

Digitized by Google

The pattern of Central and Regional Government expenditure in recent years, compared with 1938-39, is shown in the following table :—

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE, 1938-39, 1948-49, 1949-50 AND 1951-52†

Purpose	1938-39		1948-49		1949-50		1951-52	
	Amount	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%
	£		£		£		£	
Pensions and Debt Payment ..	2,179,331	31·73	3,732,190	15·62	3,042,217	10·77	2,317,880	6·46
Administration	1,037,494	15·10	3,430,395	14·35	4,000,836	14·16	4,752,202	13·24
Social Services	832,850	12·13	3,327,267	13·92	3,628,242	12·85	4,882,480	13·60
Economic Services	478,463	6·97	1,288,293	5·39	1,351,034	4·78	1,956,369	5·45
Public Order and Defence	646,709	9·42	1,302,485	5·45	1,839,912	6·51	2,557,800	7·12
Public Works	821,913	11·97	3,634,070	15·21	4,134,870	14·64	4,689,980	13·06
Marine	350,732	5·11	1,045,655	4·37	1,291,828	4·57	1,351,140	3·76
Miscellaneous	513,519	7·48	2,439,463	10·21	3,210,527*	11·36	2,650,985	7·38
Transfers to Reserve‡	—	—	1,741,342	7·29	2,715,927	9·61	5,056,254	14·08
Development Expenditure	6,398	·09	1,957,267	8·19	3,037,697	10·75	5,692,260	15·85
Total Expenditure	6,867,409	100·00	23,898,427	100·00	28,253,090	100·00	35,907,350	100·00

* Includes £1 million for purchase of U.A.C. share of revenue derived from mining in former Niger Company's zone.
† Approved Estimates.
‡ Includes :—

	1948-49	1949-50	1951-52
	£	£	£
Central Government ..	750,000	1,750,000	4,750,000
Regional Governments ..	991,342	965,927	306,254

The Public Debt of Nigeria at the end of June, 1950, amounted to £17,138,000 (approximately 13s. 8d. per head of population). This is substantially less than at the end of March, 1949, when it stood at £22,064,599 (17s. 7d. per head) and March, 1939, when it amounted to £26,764,000 (£1 4s. 2d. per head). The reduction has been effected by the conversion of £3 million of the 1949-79 and 1950-60 loans, the balance of over £7·5 million being repaid from statutory and supplementary sinking funds and general revenue balance. A loan of £2,700,000 has been raised from the Nigerian Cocoa Marketing Board. The Public Debt therefore comprises :—

		£
Nigerian 3% inscribed stock	1955	4,188,000
„ 4% „ „	1963	5,700,000
„ 3·5% registered	1956-61	300,000
„ 2·5% loan	1966-71	1,250,000
„ Conversion loan		3,000,000
Loan from Cocoa Marketing Board		2,700,000

The balance sheet of Nigeria as at 31st March, 1949, showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £9,016,907, and also a Revenue Equalization Fund of £2,309,178, and a Supplementary Sinking Fund of £3,686,772.

Local Government

A summary of the revenue and expenditure of Native Authorities for the years 1948-50 is appended :—

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. NATIVE TREASURIES

Year	Region	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus
1948-49 ..	Northern	2,850,531	2,170,098	680,433
	Western	1,172,929	1,110,290	62,639
	Eastern	779,809	750,154	29,655
1949-50 ..	Northern	3,197,361	2,985,787	211,574
	Western	1,393,529	1,197,375	196,154
	Eastern*	700,880	676,729	24,151

* Estimates

The sources of Local Government revenue are the taxation levied under the Direct Taxation Ordinance, Jangali (a capitation tax on cattle belonging to nomad herdsmen, levied almost entirely in the Northern Provinces) ; court fees and fees from various services and licences, such as market and slaughter-house fees, canoe licences ; and grants from Government. These grants are, in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, allotted according to formulæ, and in the Western Provinces on a more *ad hoc* basis.

The nature and extent of the services rendered by the Native Authorities varies according to their size and capacity.

Urban authorities, with revenues derived from local sources and Central Government grants, provide similar services in the major townships ; the largest of these is the Lagos Town Council with approved estimates of revenue at £284,880 against approved estimates of expenditure of £282,370 in 1948-49.

Currency and Banking

The currency in circulation is a West African currency issued by the West African Currency Board in London on behalf of the four British West African Territories—Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia. It consists of notes of twenty shillings and ten shillings ; yellow metal alloy coins of two shillings, one shilling and six pence ; nickel coins of three pence, one penny, half penny and tenth penny. Notes and alloy coins are legal tender for any amount ; nickel coins are legal tender for amounts up to one shilling. The currency is interchangeable with sterling at par (subject to remittance charges).

Currency is issued to the Bank of British West Africa or Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) as required, against payment to the West African Currency Board in London or against deposit of currency of equivalent value with the agents of the West African Currency Board in one of the West African Colonies.

The following statement shows the currency in circulation in Nigeria during the 13 years ended 31st March, 1951 :—

VOLUME OF CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

Years as at 31st March	*Amount* £	*Index* 1939—100
1939	5,856,537	100·00
1940	5,548,976	94·75
1941	6,059,705	103·47
1942	7,452,481	127·24
1943	11,409,093	194·81
1944	13,513,972	230·75
1945	15,386,109	262·72
1946	18,139,785	309·73
1947	23,429,013	400·05
1948	24,601,709	420·00
1949	31,772,441	542·51
1950	31,576,894	539·18
1951	39,240,000	670·00

These figures are based on net issues of currency by the Currency Officer and include amounts held by the banks, and therefore not in active circulation. Normally banks' cash holdings are a small proportion of currency issued, but vary in accordance with the banks' estimates of needs based on crop and price fluctuations.

The currency in circulation in Nigeria represents some 50 per cent of the total West African currency issued. The increases in circulation recorded above are attributable

Digitized by Google

to the continued rise in the price levels of primary products of the country (the price of cocoa doubled in 1948), to the increase in wage levels and to a general shortage of acceptable consumer goods.

Commercial Banks

The principal banks operating in Nigeria are the Bank of British West Africa Limited and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), both incorporated in the United Kingdom, and the National Bank of Nigeria Limited which is incorporated in Nigeria. Between them these three banks provide facilities at 17 centres in Nigeria. There are in addition three small banks registered in Nigeria as private companies.

Post Office Savings Bank

The Nigerian Post Office Savings Bank is organized on the same lines as the corresponding institution in the United Kingdom. Its operations are widespread, business being transacted at 122 Post Offices in Nigeria. The steady expansion in the activities of the Savings Bank is shown by the following figures :—

GROWTH OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Date	*Number of Depositors*	*Total Deposits*
		£
31st March, 1939	41,737	185,183
1940	49,200	209,749
1941	49,658	254,730
1942	54,320	365,671
1943	64,814	604,483
1944	71,397	879,119
1945	84,130	1,184,823
1946	98,184	1,697,462
1947	112,711	1,846,723
1948	132,693	2,458,123
1949	136,366	2,548,722

Private Investment

Figures for local companies registered in Nigeria were as follows in 1949 :—

REGISTERED RESIDENT COMPANIES, 1949

Class	*Total No. Registered*	*Total nominal share capital*	*Total paid-up capital*
		£	£
Private Companies	208	5,564,899	3,091,938
Public Companies	26	563,200	95,990
Guarantee Companies without share capital ..	7	—	—

The paid-up capital for 54 of the private and 15 of the public companies shown in column 2 above has not been included in column 4 as some have not yet filed their annual summary, and others are not due to do so.

As regards non-resident companies operating in Nigeria, there are :—

135 registered in Great Britain
7 „ „ Gold Coast
1 „ „ Sierra Leone
1 „ „ Malta
5 „ „ U.S.A.
3 „ „ France
3 „ „ Holland
1 „ „ Switzerland

The British companies include Banks such as the Bank of British West Africa and Barclays (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and also major companies of widespread operation such as the United Africa Company, Cable and Wireless Limited, Barclays Overseas Development Corporation and the British American Tobacco Company. There are some 120 British companies dealing mainly with Nigeria, and the total nominal share capital is over £44,000,000. Six companies account for £30,500,000 of this amount. Most companies are general importers and exporters, but 27 of the British companies (with a total nominal share capital of over £7,000,000) are engaged in mining. Three of the American companies are petroleum concerns operating on a very wide scale. It is not possible to assess the current rate of investment with any accuracy, but it would appear that in 1949, private investment was of the order of £3-£4 million.

National Income

It is not possible, in view of the vast size of the territory and the lack of detailed statistics, to make any reasonably accurate estimate of the national income. A national income survey relating to the year 1950 is in the course of preparation.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The external trade of Nigeria is summarised in the following table for the period from 1935 :—

BALANCE OF TRADE 1935-1950

Year	*Total Imports*	*Re-exports*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*
	£	£	£	£	£
1935	7,803,910	142,161	7,661,749	11,472,553	3,810,804
1936	10,829,974	147,176	10,682,798	14,929,770	4,246,972
1937	14,625,826	193,968	14,431,858	19,242,197	4,810,339
1938	8,632,292	239,469	8,392,823	9,461,615	1,068,792
1939	6,757,139	265,926	6,491,213	10,202,806	3,711,593
1940	7,479,109	371,719	7,107,390	11,231,968	4,124,578
1941	6,435,569	658,100	5,777,469	13,124,479	7,347,010
1942	10,270,310	824,553	9,445,757	13,696,141	4,250,384
1943	12,162,728	830,281	11,332,447	14,320,031	2,987,584
1944	15,577,942	986,623	14,591,319	16,202,666	1,611,347
1945	13,513,964	865,690	12,648,274	17,185,183	4,536,909
1946	20,459,060	887,883	19,571,177	23,626,312	4,055,135
1947	32,470,678	1,211,211	31,259,467	37,118,839	5,859,372
1948	41,214,866	1,307,834	39,907,032	35,898,683	−4,008,349
1949	57,539,271	1,868,210	55,671,061	78,372,675	22,701,614
1950	60,523,000	1,623,000	58,900,000	85,580,000	26,680,000

Figures for 1950 are provisional.

Notes :

(1) The table shown above is based on the Annual Trade Reports of Nigeria.

(2) The figures are shown inclusive of imports and exports of gold and silver bullion but exclusive of imports and re-exports of specie and currency notes. Imports of bullion are small, and exports of newly mined gold have fallen in recent years to a very low level.

(3) The table includes both commercial and government imports, but does not include wartime imports and re-exports of NAAFI stores which were as follows :—

	Imports	*Re-exports*
	£	£
1941	69,678	—
1942	219,192	3,120
1943	255,511	1,250
1944	169,813	—
1945	69,154	—
1946	53,609	—

Digitized by Google

(4) Imports are valued c.i.f., and exports f.o.b., with the exception of cocoa from 1939 to 1948 inclusive and of palm produce, groundnuts, and oilseeds. Valuation of these commodities at the f.o.b. cost prices (or prices paid to producers plus costs to f.o.b. stage) instead of at f.o.b. selling prices (world prices less costs incurred after f.o.b.), gives rise to "invisible" earnings or losses, i.e., to what may be called an "export produce differential." This "export produce differential" is approximate to, but not identical with, the surpluses or losses accruing to Nigeria from the operations of the Marketing Boards responsible for trade in the commodities in question. For the years 1947 and 1948 the export produce differentials are estimated as follows :—

	1947 £	1948 £
Cocoa	6,500,000	10,420,156
Cotton	196,499	74,867
Bananas	520,270	1,036,867
Benniseed	64,118	188,142
Palm Kernels	3,287,337	5,188,844
Palm Oil	1,796,224	5,167,607
Groundnuts	126,604	3,020,870
Total	12,491,052	25,097,353

These surpluses must be taken into account in estimating Nigeria's true net earnings from visible trade and balance of payments. Figures of exports for 1949 and 1950 include the export produce differentials.

Digitized by Google

The structure of visible trade can be seen from the following figures of main exports and imports for the years 1938, 1948 and 1949 :—

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE (F.O.B). FOR 1938, 1948 AND 1949 SHOWING MAIN DESTINATIONS

Article	*Unit*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value (£)*	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value (£)*	*Principal countries of destination with amounts in £000s*
Class I										
Cocoa	tons	97,100	1,566,684	U.K. (578), U.S.A. (406), Germany (282)	91,449	7,450,580	U.K. (3,969), U.S.A. (2,521)	103,638	14,697,228	U.S.A. (6,230), U.K. (6,151).
Bananas :										
Fresh	,,	55,206	277,550	Germany (228), U.K. (24).	51,157	309,593	U.K. (all)	64,952	1,935,044	U.K. (all).
Dried	,,	673	16,419	Germany (15)	414	18,819	U.K. (all)	180	11,154	U.K. (all).
Class II										
Groundnuts	,,	180,136	1,305,828	France (541), U.K. (454)	245,155	6,785,330	U.K. (6,713), France (66)	378,320	18,916,050	U.K. (all).
Palm Kernels	,,	312,047	2,168,366	U.K. (795), Germany (721), Netherlands (524)	327,174	6,262,253	U.K. (6,071), Denmark (115)	375,835	16,912,575	U.K. (16,776), Denmark (136).
Palm Oil	,,	110,244	981,329	U.K. (751), Germany (102)	139,204	3,880,653	U.K. (3,671), Canada (84)	170,145	11,910,091	U.K. (10,732), Netherlands (609).
Benniseed	,,	17,743	152,200	Netherlands (62), Denmark (41)	7,542	113,538	U.K. (all)	19,385	969,250	U.K. (all).
Shea Nuts	,,	2,997	21,170	U.K. (21)	7,372	94,012	U.K. (92)	6,286	86,059	U.K. (all).
Rubber	,,	3,135	135,797	U.K. (50), Germany (47), Czechoslovakia (39)	8,019	719,040	U.K. (520), Czechoslovakia (84) U.S.A. (82)	6,858	591,121	U.K. (467), Czechoslovakia (101).
Raw Cotton	,,	5,729	246,855	U.K. (197), Germany (20)	4,635	400,918	U.K. (all)	9,984	1,447,680	U.K. (all).
Cotton Seed	,,	6,859	24,857	U.K. (24)	4,815	35,807	U.K. (all)	2,904	37,053	U.K. (all).
Coal	,,	52,468	45,868	Gold Coast (all)	97,306	167,942	Gold Coast (134)	63,332	118,848	Gold Coast (116).
Gum Arabic	,,	357	7,848	U.K. (6), France (1)	667	40,178	U.K. (31), S. Africa (6)	839	44,114	U.K. (25), U.S.A. (12).
Hides and Skins :										
Tanned	,,	63	19,602	U.K. (15), Libya (4)	137	105,901	U.K. (104)	155	119,140	U.K. (119).
Untanned	,,	5,787	496,184	U.K. (148), U.S.A. (157), France (98)	9,450	3,202,528	U.S.A. (1,514), U.K. (1,510)	9,904	3,657,436	U.K. (2,116), U.S.A. (1,094).
Other	,,	37	5,300	U.K. (4)	51	137,302	U.K. (86)	48	94,905	U.K. (67).
Tin	,,	10,486	1,435,157	U.K. (all)	12,169	4,241,393	U.K. (all)	12,676	4,684,789	U.K. (all).
Columbite	,,	324	17,472*		1,239	230,605	U.S.A. (146), U.K. (84)	945	224,069	U.S.A. (143), U.K. (81).
Timber (unmanufactured)	cu. ft.	1,518,892	106,416	U.K. (62), Germany (40)	3,732,761	782,375	U.K. (629), Sweden (42), U.S.A. (36)	4,794,701	1,051,560	U.K. (907).
Veneers	,,	—	—		335,714	332,655	U.K. (all)	127,548	76,527	U.K. (all).
Class III										
Cotton piece goods	sq. yd.	492,191	59,101	Gold Coast (55)	210,787	24,308	Gold Coast (24)	341,615	68,849	Gold Coast (67).
Soap	tons	—	—		987	47,516	Gold Coast (31), Gambia (11)	38	1,996	French Chad (1).

* f.o.b. value.
Cocoa, groundnuts, palm kernels, palm oil, benniseed and bananas for the years 1948 are valued at f.o.b. cost price.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE (C.I.F.) FOR 1938, 1948 AND 1949 SHOWING MAIN SOURCES OF ORIGIN

Article	*Unit*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of origin with amounts in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of origin with amounts in £000s*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal countries of origin with amounts in £000s*
Class I										
Fish :										
Canned or preserved ..	tons	395	21,312	Portugal (5), U.S.A. (3), Spain (3)	217	49,177	Norway (17), France (6) ..	478	101,444	Norway (27), Japan (19), S. Africa (18).
Dried, salted, etc. ..	,,	10,201	374,165	Norway (364)	2,233	250,041	Norway (239), U.K. (7) ..	2,317	275,321	Norway (241), Spain (19).
Flour :										
Wheaten	,,	2,429	45,610	U.S.A. (40), Canada (3) ..	4,034	205,250	U.S.A. (190), Canada (12) ..	9,275	443,777	U.S.A. (432), Canada (11).
Other food :										
Condensed milk	,,	334	19,953	U.K. (10), Netherlands (8) ..	1,181	153,822	Netherlands (101), U.S.A. (38)	1,067	133,133	Netherlands (130).
Sugar	,,	6,988	104,886	U.K. (66), Czechoslovakia (27)	3,781	214,254	U.K. (214)	7,731	412,886	U.K. (412).
Tobacco :										
Cigarettes	,,	463*	273,282	U.K. (272)	483	550,095	U.K. (548)	612	648,618	U.K. (648).
Unmanufactured ..	,,	1,155	140,692	U.S.A. (134)	2,131	714,727	U.S.A. (543), S. Rhodesia (137)	2,199	844,516	U.S.A. (714), S. Rhodesia (83).
Ale, Beer, Spirits, etc. :										
Ale, Beer, etc.	gallons	470,805	72,097	U.K. (31), Germany (30) ..	1,192,123	411,269	U.K. (175), Netherlands (170)..	2,387,681	838,367	Netherlands (407), U.K. (308).
Whisky	,,	30,537	36,069	U.K. (36)	28,435	45,736	U.K. (45)	29,744	46,456	U.K. (45).
Gin	,,	68,002	28,764	U.K. (16), Netherlands (12) ..	32,679	37,271	U.K. (32), Netherlands (4) ..	49,813	55,062	U.K. (47), Netherlands (8).
Other potable Spirits ..	,,	7,843	15,278	U.K. (3), France (6), U.S.A. (3)	16,481	40,396	France (29), U.K. (2) ..	20,053	48,057	France (36), U.K. (5).
Class II										
Asphalt and Bitumen ..	tons	828	8,067	U.K. (8)	3,898	75,047	U.K. (75)	1,146	27,522	U.K. (27).
Tar	gallons	326,677	10,453	U.K. (10)	429,829	32,856	U.K. (32)	95,771	10,442	U.K. (10).
Class III										
Cotton Manufactures :										
Piece Goods :										
Grey unbleached ..	sq. yds.	12,446,701	178,025	India (72), U.K. (66)	26,150,035	1,845,492	U.K. (159), India (126), China (182), Germany (276), Japan (650), U.S.A. (335)	45,236,075	3,254,431	Japan (1,802), Germany (589), India (541), U.K. (180).
White bleached	,,	18,795,079	386,807	U.K. (353), India (14)	23,023,371	1,958,379	U.K. (703), Germany (439), U.S.A. (362), Japan (222)	40,507,399	3,566,709	Japan (1,317), Germany (905), U.K. (891).
Printed	,,	13,417,477	329,140	U.K. (234), Netherlands (49), Japan (16)	46,785,763	4,814,830	U.S.A. (1,660), U.K. (1,284), Japan (659), Germany (639), Mexico (205), Austria (143)	55,123,279	5,593,194	Japan (2,013), U.K. (1,504), Germany (1,162), U.S.A. (332), Austria (235).
Dyed in the piece ..	,,	6,668,225	172,980	U.K. (139), Italy (10), Belgium (10)	10,180,428	1,132,243	U.K. (526), Germany (221), U.S.A. (148), Belgium (69)	18,026,361	2,013,152	U.K. (808), Japan (553), Germany (287), Italy (201).
Coloured	,,	17,257,577	570,874	U.K. (274), India (255), Japan (10), Italy (9)	18,270,617	2,520,573	India (827), U.K. (690), Germany (514), Italy (263)	25,902,629	3,329,090	India (1,117), U.K. (872), Germany (716), Italy (409).
Sewing Thread	lbs.	—	—	.. ..	501,129	243,793	U.K. (195), Italy (31)	606,593	367,573	U.K. (284), Italy (68).
Apparel :										
Hats, Caps, etc.	No.	599,410	34,226	Japan (12), U.K. (9), Czechoslovakia (4)	771,870	135,702	U.K. (56), Czechoslovakia (32), France (26)	1,256,080	132,696	U.K. (50), France (40), Italy (23), Czechoslovakia (17).
Boots, Shoes, Slippers ..	Pairs	454,628	40,670	Japan (18), Czechoslovakia (11), U.K. (8)	1,388,649	413,468	U.K. (170), Czechoslovakia (184)	1,907,367	559,037	Czechoslovakia (310), U.K. (160).
Shirts	No.	170,173	16,915	U.K. (9), Hong Kong (6) ..	330,297	106,745	U.K. (54), Hong Kong (20), Germany (20)	354,264	86,416	U.K. (41), Japan (22), Hong Kong (10).
Singlets	,,	1,368,221	39,549	Japan (24), U.K. (7), Hong Kong (6)	2,293,887	285,808	U.K. (193) Czechoslovakia (24) Hong Kong (28)	2,649,507	272,570	U.K. (185), Japan (120), Hong Kong (12).

Digitized by Google

Silk Manufactures : Art Silk Piece Goods ..	sq. yds.	2,637,968	91,759	U.K. (31), Italy (27), Japan (13)	4,390,794	769,922	U.K. (619), Italy (40), Germany (45) Czechoslovakia (40)	10,152,937	1,493,020	U.K. (1,017), Japan (204), Italy (146).
Iron & Steel Manufactures : Corrugated Iron Sheets ..	tons	3,741	74,645	U.K. (59), Belgium (12) ..	3,118	254,012	Belgium (175), U.K. (78) ..	14,447	1,331,513	Belgium (665), Japan (377), U.K. (279).
Machinery :										
Mining	—	—	123,562	U.S.A. (76), U.K. (33)	—	138,472	U.K. (101), U.S.A. (19) ..	—	296,519	U.K. (185), U.S.A. (88).
Electrical	—	—	47,557	U.K. (41), U.S.A. (3)	—	193,087	U.K. (160), U.S.A. (16) ..	—	255,390	U.K. (247), U.S.A. (6).
Industrial	—	—	29,316	U.K. (23), Germany (4) ..	—	550,327	U.K. (396), U.S.A. (106) ..	—	607,784	U.K. (524), U.S.A. (24).
Sewing	—	—	21,275	U.K. (12), Germany (8) ..	—	174,728	U.K. (172)	—	222,687	U.K. (218).
Vehicles :										
Locomotives	No.	14	28,298	U.K. (24), Germany (4) ..	48	483,999	U.K.	60	905,779	U.K. (588), Canada (318).
,, parts ..	—	—	27,245	U.K. (25)	—	175,855	U.K (172), U.S.A. (3) ..	—	436,731	U.K. (428).
Wagons and Trucks ..	No.	267	49,112	U.K. (40), U.S.A. (6)	203	45,376	U.K. (all)	962	913,090	U.K. (all).
,, ,, ,, parts	—	—	2,167	U.K. (2)	—	53,891	U.K. (44), Netherlands (9) ..	—	144,380	U.K. (all).
Commercial Motor Cars	No.	261	50,351	U.S.A. (19), U.K. (18), Canada (7), Germany (6)	570	319,102	U.K. (186), U.S.A. (67), Canada (60)	991	594,303	U.K. (446), U.S.A. (100).
Chassis with Engines and Tyres	,,	225	34,218	U.S.A. (21), Germany (6) ..	1,478	753,322	U.K. (429), U.S.A.(247), Canada (74)	1,876	996,137	U.K. (848), U.S.A. (90), Canada (40).
Private Cars	,,	886	127,378	U.K. (81), Germany (21), U.S.A. (20)	1,726	657,056	U.K. (488), U.S.A. (87), Canada (75)	2,142	857,304	U.K. (766), U.S.A. (53), France (33).
Cycles and Tricycles ..	,,	8,448	35,320	U.K. (32)	104,490	859,440	U.K. (857)	129,546	1,060,600	U.K. (1,059).
Tyres and Tubes :										
Outer Covers	,,	117,568	48,240	U.K. (37), France (3), U.S.A. (2)	489,606	539,842	U.K. (314), Italy (79), France (45)	117,931	347,464	U.K. (234), Italy (80).
Inner Tubes	,,	143,398	12,402	U.K. (10)	547,361	105,811	U.K. (58), Czechoslovakia (14)	82,748	37,415	U.K. (29), Italy (6).
Oils :										
Illuminating	gallons	3,725,295	89,405	U.S.A. (49), Dutch W. Indies (29), Roumania (11)	5,528,871	151,843	Dutch W. Indies (147)	7,370,296	191,534	Dutch W. Indies (186).
Lubricating	,,	472,545	39,253	U.S.A. (19), U.K. (15), Germany (4)	1,056,877	202,087	U.S.A. (127), U.K. (75) ..	1,046,149	213,189	U.S.A. (114), U.K. (94).
Fuel	,,	987,154	36,597	U.S.A. (13), U.K. (12), Germany (5)	6,994,044	184,109	Dutch W. Indies (174)	10,989,019	280,492	Dutch W. Indies (280).
Motor Spirit	,,	8,651,839	221,930	U.S.A. (116), Dutch W. Indies (102)	39,557,983	1,024,137	Dutch W. Indies (993)	24,950,035	609,808	Dutch W. Indies (585).
Miscellaneous :										
Bags and Sacks	No.	10,317,510	196,002	India (183)	12,822,269	984,035	India (901), U.K. (23)	15,042,950	1,556,852	India (1,523).
Salt	tons	54,293	268,394	U.K. (231), Germany (22) ..	77,410	761,549	U.K. (503), Egypt (148), Spain (79)	75,806	840,837	U.K. (635), Germany (203)
Cement	,,	49,945	149,881	U.K. (113), Germany (30) ..	131,655	834,690	U.K. (623), Belgium (188) ..	161,959	1,019,968	U.K. (913), Belgium (79).
Earthenware	—	—	58,520	Japan (25), Germany (22) ..	—	169,600	U.K. (70), Czechoslovakia (44)		168,178	U.K. (64), Japan (48), Czechoslovakia (25).
Medicines and Drugs ..	—	—	105,408	U.K. (85), Germany (15) ..	—	666,116	U.K. (646), S. Africa (6), U.S.A. (4), India (3)		801,241	U.K. (769), S. Africa (12).

• Estimated on basis 335 cigarettes = 1 lb.

Digitized by Google

The volume of merchandise trade with the principal countries affected is illustrated by the following tables :—

TOTAL IMPORTS (C.I.F.) BY MAIN SOURCES, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

	1938		1948		1949	
	Amount	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%
British Empire—	£		£		£	
United Kingdom	4,713,391	54·60	21,364,578	51·84	29,253,451	50·84
Canada			353,977	·86	476,977	·83
Hong Kong			151,411	·37	215,783	·37
India and Pakistan	738,871	8·56	2,198,055	5·33	3,509,420	6·10
South Africa			195,855	·46	165,203	·29
Southern Rhodesia			143,002	·35	86,227	·15
Other			139,527	·34	166,777	·29
	5,452,262	63·16	24,546,405	59·56	33,873,838	58·87
Foreign Countries—						
Austria			246,495	·60	361,110	·63
Belgium	95,301	1·10	1,074,488	2·61	897,690	1·56
China			231,742	·56	56,366	·10
Czechoslovakia			777,754	1·89	782,528	1·36
Denmark			80,909	·19	141,024	·24
Egypt			150,761	·37	3,169	·01
France	77,563	·90	498,644	1·21	536,939	·93
Germany	754,600	8·74	2,338,253	5·67	4,129,899	7·18
Italy	169,888	1·97	940,603	2·28	2,080,498	3·61
Japan	379,068	4·39	1,598,896	3·87	7,468,269	12·98
Mexico			236,111	·57	5,595	·01
Netherlands and Netherlands Possessions	150,006	1·74	2,307,626	5·60	2,425,813	4·22
Norway	371,113	4·30	285,147	·72	319,087	·55
Poland			79,767	·18	486,956	·85
Spain			152,656	·37	200,320	·35
Sweden			117,184	·28	254,000	·44
Switzerland			67,041	·16	68,817	·12
United States of America	693,895	8·04	4,726,000	11·47	2,436,061	4·23
Other	361,646	4·19	147,169	·36	259,552	·45
	3,053,080	35·37	16,057,246	38·96	22,913,693	39·82
Parcel Post	126,950	1·47	611,215	1·48	751,740	1·31
Total	8,632,292	100·00	41,214,866	100·00	57,539,271	100·00

TOTAL EXPORTS (F.O.B.) BY MAIN DESTINATIONS, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

	1938		1948		1949	
	Amount	%	*Amount*	%	*Amount*	%
British Empire—	£		£		£	
United Kingdom	4,822,976	50·97	29,125,821	81·13	66,036,257	84·26
Canada			441,933	1·23	135,440	·17
Gambia			32,101	·09	16,306	·02
Gold Coast	209,155	2·21	285,695	·80	263,587	·34
Sierra Leone			36,963	·10	22,790	·03
South Africa			110,271	·31	366,824	·47
Other			26,127	·07	15,456	·02
	5,032,131	53·18	30,058,911	83·73	66,856,660	85·31
Foreign Countries—						
Belgium	70,880	·75	17,079	·05	12,422	·02
Czechoslovakia	75,027	·79	84,117	·23	232,248	·30
Denmark	76,207	·81	131,807	·37	151,622	·19
Egypt	329	—	55,573	·15	5,410	—
Fernando Po	523	—	10,221	·03	—	—
France	665,066	7·03	109,749	·31	49,604	·06
French Cameroons	6,514	·07	13,486	·04	3	—
French Possessions, Other	5,664	·06	21,597	·06	13,431	·02
Germany	1,647,034	17·42	50,456	·14	124,994	·16
Italy	89,861	·95	11,531	·03	294,913	·38
Netherlands	1,001,257	10·58	700,473	1·96	2,973,017	3·79
Norway	7,877	·08	101,542	·28	—	—
Sweden	12,874	·14	47,607	·13	10,364	·01
United States of America	670,221	7·08	4,401,705	12·26	7,553,672	9·64
Other	100,150	1·06	82,829	·23	94,315	·12
	4,429,484	46·82	5,839,772	16·27	11,516,015	14·69
Total	9,461,615	100·00	35,898,683	100·00	78,372,675	100·00

Figures for 1948 exclude the surplus accruing to the Marketing Boards from the export of cocoa, groundnuts, benniseed, palm products and cotton.

Digitized by Google

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Activities and Plans

The Ten-Year Development Plan

In 1946 a Nigerian Development Plan was approved by the Nigerian Legislative Council which involved the expenditure of some £53,000,000 over the ten-year period 1946-56. The Legislative Council accepted the plan as the general development policy for the ten years to 1956, subject to periodic review of details in the light of experience and the inclusion of such additional schemes as might prove to be necessary as the result of unforeseen circumstances. The plan itself stated clearly that the concept on which it was based was one of a series of objectives with an approximation of the cost, adding that the final detail and the ultimate cost could only be ascertained as the plan was put into effect and individual schemes were progressively reviewed in the light of results. It has therefore always been assumed that the plan would need to be continuously reviewed during that period in the light of events, and such a review has of course occurred. But in 1949 it had become clear that a much more comprehensive review was inevitable, and following extensive consultations with representative bodies, a revised plan was drawn up.

A number of factors led to the necessity of this major review, the one of most general effect being the general rise in costs which had taken place since the original plan was drawn up. The prices of raw materials and manufactured goods had risen and there had also been general wage increases. Consequently the original plan would have cost some £90,000,000 to implement. Even were this sum available, the residual recurrent cost of the plan after 1956 would be larger than could be borne by the Nigerian economy. Other factors of general effect have been, and will continue to be, the availability of both expatriate and Nigerian staff, and the supply of capital goods imported into Nigeria. There have been shortages, in some cases severe, of technical staff and of some kinds of capital goods, not all of which could have been expected, and the effect of these factors has been materially to change the original plan.

The 1946 plan was not intended to cover all development within Nigeria, and in the event it did not even cover all direct Government expenditure to this end. In the semi-public sector a very great deal of development is now being undertaken by the Marketing Boards, the Regional Production Development Boards, using funds allocated by the Marketing Boards, other local statutory bodies and the Colonial Development Corporation. Between them these bodies have a large amount of capital which is not only available for investment but is in fact being used for developmental purposes. Government expenditure outside the plan has also been considerable, including substantial subventions to University College, Ibadan, increased expenditure on education generally, on major schemes such as the Apapa Wharf extension, and in the rapid expansion of the Department of Commerce and Industries.

Expenditure on the original Development Plan to the end of the financial year 1950-51 was estimated to amount to about £21 million, of which approximately £14 was on basic services, £4 million on social services and £1·3 million on productive services. The revised plan makes provision for the expenditure of some £34 million between 1951 and 1956 at an annual rate of expenditure of over £9 million in the first year, approximately £7 million in the succeeding two years, over £5½ million in the year 1954-55 and just over £5 million in the last year of the period. The expenditure estimated for the first year includes £2½ million of capital payments. This money has to be found in the following proportions :—

C.D.W. Grant	£16,212,584
Nigerian Revenue	£8,020,557
Loan Funds	£9,950,450

This total is to be spent in the following proportions on basic services, social services and productive services :—

Basic services £21,992,108 (64·93 per cent).

Social services £7,180,597 (20·28 per cent).

Productive services £5,080,886 (11·55 per cent).

The provision for basic services includes a sum of £2 million for the extension of communications in Bornu. There is also a provision of £500,000 for electricity development. It is expected that additional money required by the Electricity Corporation will have to be found from loan funds.

In the social services sector the major share is taken by medical and health expenditure which is estimated to cost 10·23 per cent of the total plan. In the productive services sector the major element is agricultural development on which it is proposed to spend 5·88 per cent of the total cost of the plan. The major single item of expenditure shown in the plan is that on buildings at 17·32 per cent followed by roads at 10·31 per cent, then medical and health expenditure, rural water supplies, marine development and urban water supplies.

The revised plan includes a number of items which did not appear in the original plan, notably railway development and industrial projects in the Northern Provinces which between them call for some £3 million expenditure. A general analysis of the two plans shows that the provision for basic services has remained approximately the same, that the provision for productive services has risen from 7·34 per cent to 11·55 per cent largely due to a greater percentage expenditure on agriculture and the inclusion of the industrial project in the Northern Provinces. The expenditure on social services, despite the introduction of a new item for broadcasting, has dropped from 24·5 per cent to 20·28 per cent.

Digitized by Google

In the following table the provisions of the original plan are compared with expenditure to 31st March, 1951, plus the provisions of the revised plan :—

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Provision in Original Plan	*% of whole*	*Estimated Expenditure to* 31.3.51	*Allocations in Revised Plan* (1951-56)	*Total of Columns C and D*	*% of whole*
	£		£	£	£	
Basic Services :						
Rural Water Supplies	4,002,000	8·09	1,500,300	2,892,000	4,392,300	7·92
Urban Water Supplies	4,060,000	8·21	1,596,290	1,709,000	3,305,290	5·96
Geological Water Supplies	—		—	43,204	43,204	0·08
Roads	7,046,300	14·25	2,543,980	3,177,000	5,720,980	10·31
Railways	—		—	2,000,000	2,000,000	3·60
Technical Education	1,115,453	2·25	549,470	2,239,847	2,789,317	5·03
Electricity	1,544,200	3·12	1,189,650	500,000	1,689,650	3·04
Telecommunications	820,000	1·66	576,120	1,233,850	1,809,970	3·26
Marine	3,517,940	7·11	1,887,440	1,545,600	3,433,040	6·19
Community Development	332,000	0·67	611,900	485,000	1,096,900	1·98
Rural Training Centre	—		—	50,720	50,720	0·09
Buildings	9,034,300	18·26	3,584,670	6,023,247	9,607,917	17·32
Meteorology	—		64,400	22,640	87,040	0·15
Total Basic Services	31,472,193	63·62	14,104,220	21,922,108	36,026,328	64·93
Social Services and Administration :						
Development Officers	895,500	1·81	277,500	484,200	761,700	1·37
General Education	4,211,090	8·51	1,994,870	1,924,760	3,919,630	7·07
Medical and Health	6,628,287	13·40	1,557,870	4,117,684	5,675,554	10·23
Social Welfare	384,000	0·78	237,990	329,096	567,086	1·02
Broadcasting	—		—	324,857	324,857	0·59
Total Social Services, etc.	12,118,877	24·50	4,068,230	7,180,597	11,248,827	20·28
Productive Services :						
Agriculture	1,823,700	3·69	670,790	2,589,376	3,260,166	5·88
Fisheries	156,830	0·32	103,740	174,100	277,840	0·50
Forestry	826,136	1·67	174,510	421,863	596,373	1·07
Geological Survey	—		—	75,000	75,000	0·14
Preliminary Investigations	—		—	50,000	50,000	0·09
Textile Development	140,685	0·28	135,270	190,016	325,286	0·59
Veterinary	681,745	1·38	240,249	367,450	607,699	1·10
Industrial Projects	—		—	1,000,000	1,000,000	1·80
Northern Province Research	—		—	213,081	213,081	0·38
Total Productive Services	3,629,096	7·34	1,324,559	5,080,886	6,405,445	11·55
Miscellaneous	2,248,100	4·54	1,797,979	—	1,797,979	3·24
Total	49,468,266	100·00	21,294,988	34,183,591	55,478,579	100·00

Settlement Schemes

In addition to the plan various settlement projects have been taken in hand in the past few years. The more important of these are :—

(*a*) the re-settlement at Anchau in the Northern Provinces of some 50,000 people from a heavily infested tsetse fly area. A corridor 70 miles long and 10 miles wide was cleared of tsetse fly, and inhabitants of outlying hamlets moved into that area. The scheme began in 1937 with a grant from the Colonial Development Fund, but progress was delayed by the war ;

(*b*) a pilot scheme in the Calabar Province to test the possibilities of planned settlement of villagers from heavily over-populated areas of the Eastern Provinces. An oil palm plantation is one of the central features of the scheme ;

(*c*) the Niger Agricultural Project, Limited, being a company set up jointly by the Nigerian Government and the Colonial Development Corporation, with a nominal capital of £450,000 subscribed equally by the two partners. It is to experiment in mechanised farming in an area of about 30,000 acres of almost uninhabited light woodland area near Mokwa in the Niger Province.

Other Government Projects

The programme of economic development includes also a number of major industrial projects, such as mechanised cotton-spinning, the production of high carbonised charcoal, and factories for sacks and cassava starch. Preliminary investigations are being made. While some of the schemes, when approved, may be executed by agencies such as the Colonial Development Corporation, the Nigerian Government has invested £500,000 from surplus funds, with £50,000 of this amount appropriated for assisting to finance investigations and the balance for actual execution of schemes.

Other Development

Public and Semi-Public Corporations

The first large-scale project carried out after the War was the creation of the Cameroons Development Corporation. The Ex-Enemy Lands (Cameroons) Ordinance (No. 38 of 1946) had provided for the acquisition by the Governor of certain lands in the Cameroons under British trusteeship, formerly owned as freehold by enemy nationals and companies. The Governor was empowered to grant leases of these lands to the Cameroons Development Corporation, created by Ordinance No. 39 of 1946. The Chairman and members of the Board (which has a

Digitized by Google

maximum strength of nine) are appointed by the Governor, and their duties are to develop the resources of the lands under their control, to carry out the work and conduct the undertakings necessary for their business, and to provide social and other welfare facilities for their employees. The balance of their profits, after providing for all necessary financial contingencies and setting up appropriate reserves, is to be applied for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Trusteeship territory in such manner as the Governor may determine.

The Corporation is now in possession of over 250,000 acres of ex-enemy lands, and its main product is bananas, which are marketed in the United Kingdom. It was possible to produce for export in 1949 over five million stems of bananas, and it is hoped to expand production considerably by 1952. There are also considerable rubber and oil palm plantations, but previous planting and breeding had been found to be uneconomic and defective, and reorganisation had first to be taken in hand. Production revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1949, amounted to £1·3 million.

The Corporation, which has a labour force of over 17,500 men, itself handles the wharves at Victoria and Tiko, through which passes the entire import and export trade of the Cameroons.

A great deal of development work is being undertaken by the Northern Regional Production Development Board which is financed by the Groundnuts Marketing Board, and the Eastern and Western Regional Production Development Boards which are financed by the Oil Palm Products Marketing Board. These Boards are charged with the task of planning and expending funds for development for the benefit and prosperity of the producers and the areas of production. Initial grants amounting to over £4 million were made to the Production Development Boards by the Marketing Boards. In addition to these grants the Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board recently decided to make grants to the Regional Boards involving the expenditure of about £3,750,000 to enable them to plan their development schemes with more assurance.

The Nigeria Cotton and Cocoa Marketing Boards have also accumulated large sums which are available for development. The Cocoa Marketing Board has recently approved an expenditure over the next five years of £1,026,000 for the control of cocoa disease, the rehabilitation of the disease infected areas, and the general development of the cocoa industry ; it has contributed £1,000,000 to the Ibadan University College for the purpose of endowing the Faculty of Agriculture and has made a grant of £225,000 to secure five annual scholarships at the University for sons and daughters of cocoa farmers.

The Cotton Marketing Board planned to spend £45,000 during the 1950-51 on road improvement, the Cotton Development Team which is charged with the task of planning and executing measures for the development of the Cotton Industry, fertilisers, markets and seed distribution, and the Board has also approved in principle expenditure on Cotton Seed Multiplication and Distribution involving a capital cost of some £16,400 with recurrent costs of approximately £650 nett.

The University College, Ibadan, is an autonomous body to which a total C.D. and W. allocation of £1,500,000 has been made. The Nigerian Government is setting aside the total of £500,000 for the purpose of an annual grant-in-aid for the College of £100,000 for each year during the next five years, and is making an initial grant of £250,000 to the endowment fund to which, as already stated, the Cocoa Marketing Board is also making a substantial contribution. The approved development contribution to the College for the period 1950-56 is £2,787,379.

The Lagos Executive Development Board is undertaking schemes of land development, slum clearance and housing, in conjunction with the Colonial Development Corporation, involving the expenditure of £2,280,000 over the period 1951-56. The Colonial Development Corporation, either on its own or in conjunction with the Nigerian Government or Statutory Boards, has schemes either under consideration or approved involving the total expenditure of nearly £5,000,000. All of these Colonial Development Corporation schemes are, of course, planned on a commercial basis and will, it is anticipated, eventually be self-supporting.

In addition, the Regional Development Boards are expected to make available, in the form of loans to the public, £600,000 over the next five years for the purposes of development. Lastly there is a certain amount of development which is undertaken in the normal course of departmental activities by such departments as Agriculture, Medical, Commerce and Industries, etc.

The total sums involved in the activities referred to in the above paragraphs cannot be precisely estimated, but would appear to amount to some £17,000,000 in the period 1951-56.

Private Enterprise

Outside Government and public corporation projects, examples of private industrial enterprise are limited. A brewery operated by a company formed from several of the largest importing firms in the country has been erected near Lagos, and should be able to meet all the needs of the territory. A large plywood factory and sawmill have been built near Sapele. Encouragement has been given to the establishment, by a company of African business men, of a ceramic industry in the neighbourhood of Lagos, and in the north one firm is establishing an enlarged groundnut oil expressor plant, and further plants are projected. Several small African businesses have undertaken the production of soap, which finds an export market mainly in the Gold Coast, and increased interest is being taken in the possibility of developing canning, sugar, and boot and shoe industries.

Digitized by Google

D. SIERRA LEONE

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographic and Climatic Features

The Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is an area of some 27,925 square miles, roughly circular in shape, lying between 6° 55′ and 10° of North Latitude and 10° 16′ and 13° 18′ of West Longitude. The sea coast, 210 miles long, extends from the border of French Guinea at 9° 2′ North to the Liberian border at 6° 55′ North.

The Colony Peninsula of Sierra Leone is about 25 miles long and from 10 to 12 miles broad at the widest part, with an area of 269 square miles. It is one of the few points on the African coast where there is high land near the sea. It is formed by a range of igneous mountains, the highest of which are from 2,000 to 3,000 feet high. The mountains, composed principally of norite, are thickly wooded and intersected by ravines and small valleys. There are considerable tracts of level ground, especially on the eastern side of the Peninsula, where it sinks to the mainland.

The Protectorate has an area of 27,656 square miles and may be considered, broadly, in three parts. The coastal strip is flat and low-lying and the river estuaries, below high-tide mark, are bounded by extensive mangrove swamps. The Western and Southern parts of the Protectorate consist mainly of rolling wooded country broken in places by ranges of hills rising to 1,000 feet or more, such as the Kasewe and Kigbotima Hills; the area includes a considerable amount of secondary forest mainly in very young stages, due to shifting cultivation. Finally, in the North-East a general elevation of 1,500 feet covering most of the eastern half of the territory; this upland is mainly open savannah and woodland country. On the west side of the upland area, near the middle of the Protectorate, are the Sula and Kangari Hills rising to nearly 3,000 feet, while to the east, near the French Guinea frontier, Bintimane peak and the summits of the Tingi range rise to above 6,000 feet.

The land area of Sierra Leone is made up as follows :—

	Sq. miles
Open Savannah—Woodlands	7,847
Closed Forest (including a large proportion of secondary forest due to shifting cultivation)	16,910
Government Forest Reserves (excluding Native Administration Protected Forests)	831
Swamp	2,337
Total	27,925

The territory is well watered. The main navigable estuaries are the Sierra Leone River and Sherbro River. Ocean-going vessels call at Freetown and Pepel on the former and at Bonthe on the latter. The principal rivers, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean and navigable by small craft for the distances shown in brackets, are the Great Scarcies River (25 miles), Little Scarcies River (20 miles), Sierra Leone River also known as the Rokel or Seli River (35 miles), Bagru River and Jong River (25 miles), Sewa River and Waanje River (60 miles), and Moa River (10 miles).

The capital, Freetown, lies about four miles up the Sierra Leone River at the foot of the chain of mountains on the Sierra Leone peninsula. It possesses the best natural deep-water harbour in West Africa and is an important coaling station and port of registry. A deep-water quay is in course of construction.

The wet season lasts from May to October. The shade temperature varies during the year from about 62 to 97 degrees. Violent thunderstorms and line squalls, locally called tornadoes, occur at the beginning and end of the rainy season, but do not last long, and seldom do much damage.

The average rainfall is about 137 inches in Freetown and much higher in the mountainous parts of the Peninsula. Along the coastal belt the average is between 125 and 150 inches. Further inland it varies from about 100 to 125 inches, falling below 100 inches on the eastern borders. Between December and March the dry season wind known as the " Harmattam " is prevalent; it is very dry and often brings with it a fine dust from the interior. Its direction ranges from north-east to south-east.

Population

Owing to the Second World War, it was not possible to carry out the usual decennial census of the Colony and Protectorate in 1941. It was, however, decided late in 1947 to take a simple census of the Colony and to make sample counts in the Protectorate on which an estimate of population could be based. The work was carried out mainly by Administrative Officers in the course of their routine duties, and only a rough count was possible. The results are in no way a substitute for the next full census, but they give some idea of the present size and distribution of the population.

The method employed in the Protectorate was to make an exact count of the population in representative types of towns and villages, and from the figures obtained to establish the ratio of tax-paying males to the total population of the sample villages. The total population of each Chiefdom was then obtained by multiplying the total number of tax-paying males by the ratio obtained from the sample data. Similar ratios were obtained showing the proportion of male and female adults and children and totals in all these categories were obtained by multiplication. This method has on previous occasions produced results adequate for general purposes.

In the Colony the whole population was counted and test checks were carried out where the figures showed any considerable difference from those which had been estimated from the house tax lists and assessments rolls.

The following tables show the main results of the census :—

POPULATION AND LAND AREA, 1948

	Population			*Land Area* (*sq. miles*)	*Population Density per sq. mile*
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*		
Colony					
Freetown	33,340	31,236	64,576	4·8	13,453
Rural Areas	29,137	23,332	52,469	251·2	208
Sherbro Judicial District	3,799	3,813	7,612	12·6	605
Total	66,276	58,381	124,657	268·6	464
Protectorate :					
Northern Province	353,432	358,780	712,212	13,875·0	51
South Eastern Province	169,668	192,507	362,175	6,005·0	60
South Western Province	315,084	344,147	659,231	7,776·0	85
Total	838,184	895,434	1,733,618	27,656·0	63
Total, Sierra Leone	904,460	953,815	1,858,275	27,924·6	67

Digitized by Google

POPULATION ANALYSIS, 1948

	Children			Adults		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Colony :						
Freetown	10,148	10,455	20,603	23,192	20,781	43,973
Rural Areas	7,064	6,574	13,638	22,073	16,758	38,831
Sherbro Judicial District ..	1,362	1,369	2,731	2,437	2,444	4,881
Total	18,574	18,398	36,972	47,702	39,983	87,685
Protectorate :						
Northern Province ..	142,935	120,707	263,642	210,497	238,073	448,570
South Eastern Province ..	63,777	57,170	120,947	105,891	135,337	241,228
South Western Province ..	97,359	90,650	188,009	217,725	253,497	471,222
Total	304,071	268,527	572,598	534,113	626,907	1,161,020
Total, Sierra Leone ..	322,645	286,925	609,570	581,815	666,890	1,248,705

NOTE.—The foregoing tables relate to total population, including Asians and Europeans. Non-Africans represent, however, less than 0·2 per cent of the total population of Sierra Leone, and less than 2·0 per cent of the population of Freetown, where they are most numerous, so that the figures are affected only to an insignificant extent.

POPULATION GROWTH AND RACIAL DISTRIBUTION SINCE 1901

	1901	1911	1921	1931	1948
Colony :					
European	493	558	792	420	608
Asian	..	169	198	444	873
African	73,858	74,668	84,054	95,558	123,176
Non-native	..	..	..	*33,775*	*28,050*
Native	..	..	..	*61,783*	*95,126*
	74,351	75,395	85,044	96,422	124,657
Protectorate :					
European	80	170	250	231	356
Asian	..	95	401	772	1,201
African	949,827	1,324,312	1,454,859	1,671,055	1,732,061
Non-native	..	..	..	*3,265*	*2,078*
Native	..	..	..	*1,667,790*	*1,729,983*
	949,907	1,324,577	1,455,510	1,672,058	1,733,618
Sierra Leone :					
European	573	728	1,042	651	964
Asian	..	264	595	1,216	2,074
African	1,023,685	1,398,980	1,538,913	1,766,613	1,855,237
Non-native	..	..	..	*37,040*	*30,128*
Native	..	..	..	*1,729,573*	*1,825,109*
	1,024,258	1,399,972	1,540,554	1,768,480	1,858,275

Freetown, the capital, has a total population of 64,576, consisting of 63,412 Africans (46,081 native ; 17,331 non-native), 792 Asiatics, and 372 Europeans.

Of the total population of Freetown, 25,265 or 39·1 per cent are literate, and in the rural areas 8,464 or 16·1 per cent are literate. If it is assumed that all non-Africans are literate, these ratios are slightly reduced, to 38·0 and 15·7 per cent respectively, for the African population only.

There are Africans of many tribes in Sierra Leone, 13 of which are indigenous, each having a different language. Over 30 per cent of the total African population in the territory is of the Mende tribe, and just under 30 per cent of the Temne tribe. The Mende and Temne languages are widely spoken in the South and North, respectively. The only *lingua franca* is a form of pidgin English, which is fairly widespread, though by no means universal.

There are about 1,200 persons of Lebanese or Syrian nationality, 75 French, 70 Americans, 40 Swiss, 15 Greeks, and some dozen persons of other European nationalities. The majority of the Americans are missionaries ; the other aliens are mostly traders.

Social Amenities

Education

It is estimated that of the children of school age, in the Colony some 75 per cent were receiving schooling, and in the Protectorate some 5 per cent in 1950. There were 293 primary and secondary schools in 1950, having a total enrolment of 37,312. Of these, 280 were primary schools—86 in the Colony and 194 in the Protectorate—with total enrolment of 34,781, and 13 were secondary schools—11 in the Colony, 2 in the Protectorate—with 2,531 pupils enrolled.

Technical education is at present confined mainly to the training given by Government Technical Departments and by some other large employers. The Njala Training College trains agricultural instructors for the Agricultural Department, and a Government Training Centre at Wilberforce provides training in a variety of trades, in both day and evening classes.

Post-secondary education is provided at Fourah Bay College, affiliated to Durham University, which had 195 students in residence at the end of 1950. Staff and buildings are being expanded, with some aid from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, to permit extension of the field of studies. The expanded college, which will have enhanced status and a large measure of autonomy, will incorporate a technological faculty.

There are five teacher-training colleges, two in the Colony (including the teacher-training department of Fourah Bay College) and three in the Protectorate : these had a total of 357 students in 1950.

A mass literacy campaign, begun as an experiment in 1943, is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare grants, with assistance from the Colony's funds. From the beginning of the scheme in 1943 to 1947 the total of reading certificates issued was 807 ; by the end of 1950 there were 3,700 certificated adult literates.

Digitized by Google

Health

Data concerning the incidence of the principal diseases relate mainly to cases treated in Government hospitals and dispensaries, and since a large proportion of the population relies on native medicines and treatment, the picture is far from complete. Accounting for the greatest number of cases are yaws, respiratory diseases, malaria, rheumatic conditions, venereal diseases and intestinal diseases, in that order of importance.

There are four Government hospitals in the Colony and seven in the Protectorate, with a total of 495 beds, excluding cots for children. There are 27 Government general dispensaries and nine Native Administration dispensaries, together with 14 specialised dispensaries or centres for the treatment of yaws and sleeping sickness. There are six hospitals maintained by the missions, and two belonging to mining companies.

Progress is being made with the building of three new hospitals and enlargement of three existing ones.

An endemic diseases control unit, financed mainly under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, is concerned with yaws and sleeping sickness. As qualified staff are recruited the work will be extended to new areas and to other diseases. Anti-malaria measures are directed mainly to eradicating the insect vector by larvicidal methods, swamp drainage, and canalization. The extension of preventive medicine to combating tuberculosis and venereal diseases in particular, as well as diseases generally, is being undertaken as resources permit.

Housing

In Freetown better-class houses are constructed of concrete, laterite blocks and timber. A local feature is the houses with a ground floor of concrete or laterite block, and a timber first floor. The poorer sections of the population live in single-storey timber or mud-block buildings with roofs of palm tile thatch or corrugated iron. Many larger houses are wholly or partly converted into tenements, frequently of a single room. These buildings are very overcrowded, and constitute the principal slum problem of Freetown. Most of the better-type houses are occupier-owned, while the poorer sections of the community pay rent. Considerable new building construction and improvement of existing buildings is taking place in and around Freetown ; with the exception of houses built by Government for its officers this has so far been done by private individuals.

Since the inauguration in 1933 of the Freetown Municipality Building Scheme, the City Council has advanced to ratepayers, for the erection, repair and improvement of houses, a total of over £62,000 by the end of 1949 ; more than half of this sum was advanced by Government for the purpose.

In the Protectorate mud and wattle are still the principal building materials, but in some of the larger towns houses built of mud blocks with palm-tile or corrugated iron roofs are replacing mud and wattle construction.

In certain centres and districts, proclaimed health areas, simple regulations are enforced regarding the spacing of houses and the height of floor level above ground. Elementary town planning is also attempted, with the objects of improving on the traditional disregard of order and of giving easy access to buildings. As a rule, the occupier is the owner, except in the larger towns where a floating labour force rents accommodation.

In general, housing in the Protectorate is improving, particularly at the mining centres at Yengema, Marampa and Hangha where action is being taken to provide additional and more modern structures for the workers.

Such new houses are made either of concrete blocks or earth blocks, cement faced with concrete floors and corrugated iron roofs, with separate kitchens and latrines constructed with similar materials, and are much more hygienic than the earth floors and thatched roofs traditional throughout the greater part of the Protectorate.

Social Security

There are no social insurance schemes at present in Sierra Leone. Of the wage-earners, who number only some 60,000 of a total population of nearly 2,000,000, most are still drawn from the tribal communities of the Protectorate and can in most cases return there when not engaged as wage-earners. The basic economy is that of peasant farming.

Provision is made for the relief of paupers by the Freetown City Council with the aid of a Government grant. There are a number of Benefit Societies in the Colony and Protectorate organized on an individual membership contributory basis for mutual benefit of members in times of distress of all kinds.

In the Protectorate the extended family is the normal social unit, members of which recognize responsibility for mutual support.

The Post Office Savings Bank provides for small savings, paying interest at the rate of 2½ per cent per annum. Not more than £500 may be deposited in any one year. At 31st December, 1949, there were 39,979 depositors, and the total of deposits was £865,859.

Political Structure

An Order of the King in Council, dated 16th January, 1924, provided for a new and considerably enlarged Legislative Council, introducing an elective element and direct representation of Protectorate interests into the constitution of that Council for the first time in the history of Sierra Leone.

A fresh series of constitutional instruments was made in April, 1951. These were the Sierra Leone (Legislative Council) Order-in-Council No. 611 of 1951, the Protectorate Order-in-Council No. 610 of 1951 and the Letters Patent and Royal Instruction. These instruments provide for a Legislative Council with a large elected unofficial majority consisting of the Governor as President, a Vice-President elected by the vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council, seven *ex officio* members, 21 elected and two nominated members. Of the elected members, seven will represent the Colony and 14 the Protectorate. Twelve of the Protectorate members are elected by each of the District Councils choosing one of its members to represent the District on the Council. The other two Protectorate representatives are drawn from the Protectorate Assembly, one of them being an African member of the Assembly nominated by the Governor after election by the unofficial members of the Assembly, and the other being one of the District representatives in the Assembly elected by the Assembly's unofficial members.

The Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Sierra Leone is also the Governor of the Protectorate. Authority is given to the Governor by ordinances passed in the Legislative Council to exercise and provide for giving effect to the powers and jurisdiction acquired by the Crown in Sierra Leone.

Local Government

(i) *Colony :* That part of Sierra Leone which is administered as Colony consists of the Sierra Leone Peninsula with the adjacent Tasso and Banana Islands, the town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, and York Island. It is administered by three authorities :—

(*a*) The Freetown City Council (as reconstituted under Ordinance No. 1 of 1945 as amended by Ordinance No. 4 of 1948).

(*b*) The Rural Area Council, which deals with the Colony Peninsular, outside the Freetown Municipal Area. It consists of six elected members, each of whom is a member of a rural district council, elected by such council to represent the district, and is presided over by an additional member appointed by the Governor as President. Each rural district council consists of six members, each of whom is a member of a village committee, elected by the latter. Each village committee consists of six members elected by registered voters in the village. (Rural Areas Ordinance 1949 (No. 11 of 1949).)

Digitized by Google

(c) The Sherbro Judicial District, consisting of the town of Bonthe, York Island and the small islands adjacent thereto, is administered in a similar way. The District Commissioner of the Bonthe District (Protectorate) is ex-officio President of the Sherbro Judicial District Board, the local authority for the district. The Board consists of the President, the Medical Officer, Bonthe, and four unofficial members.

Proposals for a new constitution for (c) are under consideration.

(ii) *Protectorate :* The Protectorate is divided into three provinces, Northern, South-Western and South-Eastern, each in charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Administrative control of the whole Protectorate is vested in the Chief Commissioner, whose headquarters are at Bo. There are 12 Protectorate Districts each in charge of a District Commissioner. There are 192 Chiefdoms, each ruled by a Paramount Chief ; 136 Chiefdoms, including all the larger ones and about 80 per cent of the total population of the Protectorate, have been organized as Native Administrations since 1937. These have their own treasuries and are responsible, under the supervision of the District Commissioner, for local administration and development.

District Councils with executive powers and a Protectorate Assembly have recently been established ; the functions of the latter are advisory.

Economic Departments of the Administration

Many Government Departments, notably the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Mines and Geological Surveys, are concerned principally with matters affecting the economic life of Sierra Leone. Apart, however, from the sections of the Secretariat which deal with financial and economic matters, the only department specifically established to deal with economic matters is the Department of Commerce and Industry. This Department is responsible not only for such controls as import control and price control, but also for certain more positive aspects of the Government's economic policy. In particular it is responsible for the encouragement and development of local industries and commerce and for building up a statistical service. In 1949 responsibility for handling the more important kinds of export produce was transferred from the department to the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board.

Relations with adjacent territories and regional and international organizations

The neighbouring territories sharing a common frontier with Sierra Leone are French Guinea and Liberia. There is a British Consul-General in Dakar and a Legation in Monrovia which is in the charge of a British Minister accredited to the Republic of Liberia. Sierra Leone's relations with the Liberian and with the French Colonial Governments take the form of direct correspondence with the Governments concerned, or where appropriate, through the British representative. Officers stationed near the frontiers meet and co-operate with corresponding officers of the adjacent territory in matters affecting common interests.

The West African Council has in the past provided an additional channel of communication between British West African Governments and between these Governments and the Colonial Office on subjects of regional importance. It also performed certain useful liaison functions between British West African territories and the Colonial territories of other Powers in West Africa. The West African Council was, however, dissolved in June, 1951, and has been replaced by the West African Inter-Territorial Conference which will provide the inter-territorial liaison previously afforded by the Council.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

All companies are controlled by the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 39), which follows the English Companies Act of 1929. Co-operative Societies are controlled by the Co-operative Societies Ordinance (Cap. 43), which is based on a model used widely throughout the Empire. There is no specific legislation controlling trading but agricultural production is controlled by the Agricultural Ordinance, 1946 (No. 23 of 1946), and rules thereunder and mineral production by the Minerals Ordinance (Cap. 144) and rules thereunder. By the Development of Industries Ordinance, 1946 (No. 17 of 1946), a Board was set up which has available up to £10,000 a year to encourage and assist development of secondary industries by way of loans and supply of equipment.

Copyrights are governed by the Copyrights Act, 1911 with certain modifications (Cap. 44). United Kingdom Patents may be registered in Sierra Leone and registration confers on a person whose patent has been so registered the same rights as if his patent had been issued in the United Kingdom with extension to the Colony. Trade Marks are governed by the Trade Marks Ordinance (Cap. 239) based on the United Kingdom Act of 1905.

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

General control of customs is exercised under the authority of the Customs Ordinance (No. 1 of 1948), and import and export duties are levied in accordance with the Customs Tariff Ordinance (Cap. 57), as amended.

The principal classes of goods subject to *ad valorem* import duties in force at 31st December, 1950, are shown below, together with the rates levied. (In a number of these cases specific minima are also imposed, which operate if prices fall below a given level) :—

IMPORT DUTIES

General Tariff	*British Preferential Tariff*	*Item*
66⅔%	33⅓%	Perfumery, cosmetics, toilet preparations, dentifrices, mouth washes.
64%	16%	Boots and shoes of rubber (excluding Wellingtons) ; hats of felt, velours, or similar materials.
55%	22½%	Silk and artificial silk piece goods and fents (including scarves, handkerchieves, bed covers, table covers, sarongs, and similar articles).
50%	16⅔%	Apparel (cardigans, jerseys, pullovers, shirts, vests, singlets, chemises, and similar garments) ; boots and shoes (except children's not exceeding size one, and including Wellingtons but excluding other boots and shoes of rubber), slippers, sandals ; hosiery of cotton, silk, or artificial silk ; gramophones and records (excepting certain types in African dialects) ; umbrellas and parasols ; woollen piece goods.
33⅓%	16⅔%	Confectionery ; cotton handkerchieves ; woollen hosiery ; certain types of gramophone records in African dialects.
28%	16%	Parts and accessories for vehicles other than motor cycles.
24%	16%	Electrical and telegraphic apparatus.
24%	12%	Cutlery ; glass bottles, lamp chimneys and table glassware ; plate glass ; lamps and lanterns ; clocks and watches.
16%	Free	Motor cycles and trailers.
12%	Free	Motor vehicles (except motor cycles) and trailers.
10%	Free	Artificial limbs, crutches, spectacles, etc.
8%	Free	Certain mining appliances ; bona fide educational requisites ; buoys, chains, anchors, sinkers ; coal, coke and patent fuel ; cooper's stores ; cork-wood ; filters ; fire fighting gear ; equipment (including arms and ammunition) for recognised rifle clubs ; fishing nets and gear ; combs for dressing piassava fibre ; ice chests and refrigerators ; agricultural tools and implements ; infants' foods ; most kinds of machinery ; manures, insecticides, etc. ; water tanks, vats and ready-made spare parts ; mosquito netting.

Digitized by Google

The principal commodities subject to specific import duties, and the rates levied, are shown below :—

	British Preferential Tariff	*General Tariff*
Unmanufactured tobacco .. per lb.	2/9	3/-
Cigarettes, according to weight, per hundred and to place of origin and manufacture — from per 100	5/-	
to per 100		6/-
from per lb.	£1	
to per lb.		1/4/-
Snuff .. .. per lb.	9/11	10/11
Other manufactured tobacco — from per lb.	9/6	
to per lb.		11/6
Textiles		
Cotton,		
piece goods,		
American grey .. per sq. yd.	—	1d.
greys (excl. American grey), bleached ,, ,, ,,	2d.	3d.
coloured, dyed, printed ,, ,, ,,	2½d.	4d.
velveteen .. .. ,, ,, ,,	4d.	7d.
interlock fabric		
bleached, unbleached ..per lb.	3d.	5d.
dyed .. .. .. ,, ,,	4d.	7d.
yarn .. .. ,, ,,	4d.	7d.
sewing cotton, fents .. ,, ,,	7d.	1/1
blankets .. .. .. ,, ,,	2½d.	4d.
Wool yarn .. .. .. ,, ,,	9d.	1/6
Beer, ale, stout; porter, cider, perry imp. gal.	2/6	4/6
Wines,		
Still .. .. .. ,, ,,	6/-	11/-
Sparkling .. .. ,, ,,	18/-	1/13/-
Potable spirits; spirituous drugs and medicinal preparations ,, ,,	2/16/-	2/18/6
Methylated spirit		
(*a*) Solely for industrial, medical or scientific use and not for sale ,, ,,	1/-	1/3
(*b*) Other .. .. ,, ,,	2/16/-	2/17/2
Bags (*a*) for coaling .. .. each	6d.	1/-
(*b*) for export of produce 100 lbs.	3/6	7/-
Cement .. .. 400 lbs.	1/1	4/6
Dyes and dyestuffs .. .. lb.	4d.	8d.
Cinematograph film, non-educational 100 ft.	6d.	1/-
Matches, in boxes of 80 gross or less of boxes	4/-	6/-

Specific duties are also imposed on sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, and a wide variety of other foods.

Export duties are imposed on the commodities and at the rates shown below :—

EXPORT DUTIES

Ginger	per ton	£14 0 0
Palm Kernels	,,	6% *ad valorem*
Palm Oil	,,	,, ,, ,,
Ground Nuts	,,	,, ,, ,,
Cocoa	,,	,, ,, ,,
Coffee	,,	,, ,, ,,
Benniseed	,,	,, ,, ,,
Piassava Fibre.. ..	,,	£2 10 0
Kola Nuts	per lb.	£0 0 0½

Export and import licensing is in force under the Defence (Control of Imports) Regulations, 1941 (Public Notice No. 77 of 1941) and the Customs (Exports Prohibition) Order in Council, 1949 (Public Notice No. 66 of 1949).

(iii) *Labour*

Labour relations are dealt with by the following ordinances whose titles indicate their approximate scope :

The Trade Unions Ordinance (Cap. 242),

The Wages Boards Ordinance (Cap. 258),

The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance (Cap. 237),

The Trade Disputes (Declaration of Law) Ordinance (Cap. 238),

The Employers and Employed Ordinance (Cap. 70), and

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap. 268).

(iv) *Land Tenure*

In the Colony, the ultimate ownership of land is vested in the Crown. Freeholds have been granted to individuals particularly around Freetown. In the rural areas of the Peninsula, portions of the land are held by village communities under usufructuary titles. In the Protectorate the land belongs to the tribal authorities and cannot be alienated. No non-native can acquire a greater interest in such land than a lease for a term of 50 years with the right to extend for further terms of 21 years at a time. In all long leases rents are subject to revision by the District Commissioner at the end of every seven years.

Mineral rights throughout the Colony and Protectorate are vested in the Crown. The granting of rights and licences to mine are governed by the Minerals Ordinance (Cap. 144) (see also below).

(v) *Immigration*

Immigration is governed by Ordinance No. 24 of 1946 and Public Notices Nos. 192 of 1947 and 81 of 1948.

Transport and Communications

Roads

At the end of 1950 Sierra Leone possessed rather more than 2,000 miles of roads. There were 1,406 miles of all-weather trunk road, maintained by the Central Government, including some 90 miles of bitumen-surfaced road. Feeder roads, maintained by Local Authorities, totalled 561 miles ; some of these roads are closed during the rainy season. There were about 101 miles of private or mining company roads. In addition, connecting the larger villages, were many miles of tracks of varying standards, known as hammock roads. Though hammock transport is rapidly declining, the better tracks are used by cyclists whose numbers are increasing.

Railways

The Sierra Leone Railway has a total route mileage of 311 miles. The main line runs eastward from Freetown, to Pendembu—a distance of 227½ miles. From Bauya Junction, 64 miles from Freetown, a branch line runs north-east to Makeni—a distance of 83¾ miles. The railway is of 2 feet 6 inches gauge, and follows a devious course with heavy gradients and frequent river crossings. Operating costs are consequently high, and the railway has for many years operated at a loss, the deficit being made good by Government. Efforts to reduce the deficit have had considerable success in recent years, and in 1949 the ratio of working expenditure to gross receipts was 101·9 per cent. Capital expenditure totalling some £1,250,000 is envisaged, to enable the railway to continue to function efficiently and at reduced cost. A review of freight charges has recently been undertaken.

A private railway, owned by the Sierra Leone Development Company, runs from Pepel to Marampa, a distance of 57½ miles. This railway is of 3 feet 6 inches gauge, and is used to carry iron ore outwards and the Company's supplies inwards ; it is not available for use by the public.

Water Transport

The principal rivers are navigable by launches and light craft, for varying distances given in the opening paragraphs, above, and are used considerably for the conveyance of local produce and for general transport.

Digitized by Google

Port Facilities

The principal seaports, serving external communications, are Freetown, Pepel, Sherbro and Sulima.

Freetown does not yet possess a deep-water quay but one is under construction; bunkering and the loading and unloading of cargo are at present carried out by means of lighters. The draught of vessels is unrestricted. Lighter berths, cargo handling facilities, and shore operations are under the control of the railway.

Pepel is used for outward shipment of iron ore only. Vessels are berthed alongside a jetty and loading is by means of conveyors. The maximum loaded draft permitted in the channel from Pepel to the sea is 27 feet.

Sherbro port is used mainly for the loading of local produce, especially piassava and palm kernels. Lighters are used for charging and discharging ships. The maximum loaded draught permitted is 24 feet 6 inches.

Sulima is used almost exclusively for loading piassava. The anchorage is in the open sea, and loading is from surf boats which pass from the Moa River through the narrow sea bar at its mouth.

Shipping Services

Three shipping firms operate a frequent service of cargo and passenger ships between the United Kingdom and Freetown and ports south as far as Lobito Bay; there are some 20 ships a month in each direction. Two lines operate bi-monthly services to and from North America, and another bi-monthly service between Europe and South Africa calls at Freetown.

Airports

The territory's principal airport is the former R.A.F. airfield at Lungi: use of the civil landing ground at Waterloo was discontinued during 1947 owing to subsidence. Radio equipment is installed, providing navigational aids and point to point communication with Gambia and the Gold Coast. The airfield is used by the regular services of West African Airways Corporation which link Sierra Leone with adjacent territories and with Gambia, Gold Coast and Nigeria. Connection is made at Accra, Lagos and Kano with the main trunk routes of B.O.A.C., and at Dakar with those of B.S.A.A. At Kano and Dakar, also, connection is made with main trunk routes operated by Air France, Sabena, K.L.M. and Swiss Air.

There are emergency landing grounds at Port Loko, Magburaka, Bo and Daru.

Postal and Telegraphic Services

There are post offices in all main towns of the Colony and Protectorate: most kinds of business are transacted, including money orders, and Post Office Savings Bank. In the smaller towns, post office business is transacted by Postal Agents; it is in general restricted to the commoner types—mails, sale of stamps and postal orders. External mail services are operated as follows: overland, with French Guinea and Liberia; sea, with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the British West African Colonies, Liberia and South Africa; air, with the United Kingdom and the British West African Colonies.

Freetown and district is served by an automatic telephone system, with trunk lines to Waterloo, York, Bo and Lungi Airport. Plans are being prepared for a system of trunk lines linking important Government centres. Radio telephone services are now available to the United Kingdom and to other West African Colonies.

Commercial cable and radio services are maintained by Cable and Wireless, Limited. There are cable links with Gambia, the Gold Coast, Nigeria, French Guinea, Ascension, and St. Vincent, and through these with all parts of the world. There is radio communication with Liberia and with ocean shipping.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The soil of the swamp regions, in the coastal deltas and inland along the rivers, is a rich alluvial silt, periodically renewed by flooding and very fertile. The whole of the hinterland and uplands is of laterite, acid and lacking in plant nutrients. Of the Territory's total land area the swamps cover roughly one-twelfth and closed forest almost two-thirds. The latter includes, however, much secondary forest resulting from the system of shifting cultivation. It is estimated that about nine-tenths of the adult male population is engaged in some form of agricultural activity. The system is one of small peasant farming, largely on a subsistence basis. This subsistence farming is supplemented by the production or collection for export, of palm kernels and other oil palm products, piassava fibre, ginger, kola nuts, cocoa and coffee. Hand cultivation is the rule, though there is some use of oxen-drawn ploughs in the North, and the Agricultural Department has made a start with the introduction of tractor-drawn ploughs. Outside the few areas given over to rice or to permanent tree crops, the system is one of shifting cultivation, with bush fallow ranging from five to 15 years. The clearing and burning of the bush produces an ash having good fertilising qualities; apart from this and local household refuse, there is no systematic use of fertilisers.

One of the primary concerns of the Agricultural Department is to secure the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility and the prevention of erosion; in 1948 a Soil Conservation Team was formed to make a thorough investigation of the problem, which is made more urgent by the growing pressure of population. Population pressure in some upland areas, with a consequent tendency to the progressive exhaustion of the soil, is already noticeable, as is a movement of population from those areas to the swamps. Direct control has been imposed in some places; elsewhere reliance is placed on advice and example to inculcate sound farming practices.

The Territory's livestock population is estimated to consist of some 69,000 head of cattle, 11,000 sheep, 29,000 goats, and 4,000 pigs. The cattle are of the Ndama type, small and with a low milk yield of high butter-fat content, but resistant to trypanosomiasis; they are concentrated mainly in the North. Water shortage in the dry season is a serious handicap to the development of larger herds. Inspection at the Veterinary Department's posts is imposed on importation of livestock over the Territory's land frontiers. During 1949 more than 22,000 head of cattle were vaccinated against contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia which is at present the most serious obstacle to the development of cattle rearing. Animal trypanosomiasis is another similar handicap, and the subject of constant research. Rinderpest and anthrax have been kept under control in recent years.

The activities of the Agricultural Department extend over a wide field and include: promotion of swamp clearance and reclamation to increase the cultivable area; encouragement of dry season crops in swamp areas; breeding and distribution of high yielding strains of rice, encouragement of the planting of improved oil palms, cocoa, coffee, coconuts; instruction and assistance in processing of these crops; establishment of rice mills; encouragement of pig-breeding by example, advice, and provision of breeding stock; inspection and research. Mechanization trials have been carried out, oil palm and other nurseries established, and the formation of producer's co-operatives encouraged. Establishment of research stations for rice, cocoa and piassava is planned for the near future, and new large-scale rice, palm oil and coffee mills are to be set up.

Local Food Products

The staple food and principal crop is rice. Production is of the order of 270,000 tons of paddy annually, of which some four-fifths is upland rice, one fifth swamp rice. The upland rice acreage is in the region of 700,000 acres; about 80,000 acres are under swamp rice. Yields

Digitized by Google

vary from 700-1,400 lbs. of paddy per acre on upland plots to 1,200-1,800 lbs. per acre in the swamps. The average family cultivates between three and 10 acres.

Before 1932, rice was imported regularly to supplement the domestic crop. In recent years, in general, domestic needs have been met, but the possibility of an export surplus of any size seems remote. There is, however, some export from the Scarcies across the land frontier to French Guinea.

Swamp development and the introduction of new varieties are contributing to improve supplies. Agricultural stations continue to issue seed rice and to select and breed still better strains. In the Scarcies, mechanical cultivation with tractors has given excellent results and it is planned to extend mechanization to other areas during 1950. A mechanical rice thresher at Rokupr and a small rice mill at Kenema have operated satisfactorily, and a large rice mill is being erected at Mambolo.

The next most widely grown crop is cassava, which appears to be increasing in popularity. Some 35,000 acres are estimated to be devoted to this crop, and annual production is of the order of 100,000 tons.

Other subsistence crops include sweet potatoes (5,500 acres, 6,000 tons), fundi or millet (5,000 acres, 12,000 tons), groundnuts (9,000 acres, 1,800 tons), guineacorn, beans, pumpkins, guavas, avocado pears, bananas, breadfruit, and pineapples. Many of these last-named are grown only on a small, kitchen-garden scale. Most are grown throughout the territory, though groundnuts and fundi are cultivated mainly in the drier North.

There is a substantial domestic consumption of palm oil and of kola nuts which are also exported on a significant scale.

While the local African diet contains ample carbohydrates and vegetable fat, it is lacking in protein. Development of the cattle and poultry industry and the eradication of poultry disease will do much to redress the balance, but will take time to show results. Development of the Territory's fisheries (see below) may be expected to take effect more quickly.

Local variations in food production are not very marked. Most rural areas are virtually self-supporting. The Scarcies rice area is, broadly speaking, the reserve granary of the country. The localised piassava, cocoa, and coffee areas of the South-East and East are perhaps less productive of rice but they have an adequate substitute in cassava. High prices of groundnuts and other export crops are giving encouragement to farmers to increase the acreage under those crops, and these increases may be at the expense of rice growing.

Cash Crops

Although there is no doubt that much trade takes place domestically, in rice, palm products, cassava, kola nuts, etc., it is not possible to give a quantitative estimate of its amount. Cash trade is, nevertheless, largely co-extensive with export trade, and the figures of the latter are a substantially accurate indication of the main features of cash production ; these figures are given below and in the section on Balance of Trade.

As already mentioned, although there is a small export of rice over the land frontier with French Guinea and further small amounts are exported as ships' stores, there is little prospect of an export surplus of any significance. The principal cash and export crops are palm kernels, kola nuts, palm oil, cocoa, piassava fibre, ginger, groundnuts, coffee and benniseed, roughly in that order of magnitude.

PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT OF THE MAIN CASH CROPS

	Quantity (tons)							*Value (£)*						
	1938	1939–45 *Average*	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1938	1939–45 *Average*	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Palm Kernels ..	63,697	46,483	46,773	61,240	66,431	76,541	71,269	457,031	381,081	688,840	1,301,742	1,744,591	2,314,038	2,277,752
Palm Oil ..	1,066	426	107	637	2,208	3,308	1,940	16,025	5,270	4,449	30,857	115,958	186,348	105,411
Groundnuts ..	—	—	—	24	890	2,454	3,465	—	—	—	506	26,558	71,639	100,011
Benniseed ..	374	197	127	3	350	287	804	3,700	1,993	1,999	55	11,538	10,728	33,811
Kola Nuts ..	1,450	997	1,307	2,300	1,840	1,680	1,070	29,785	34,922	105,470	229,099	166,633	155,216	106,244
Cocoa	384	477	572	439	1,379	714	1,620	5,849	8,741	11,653	16,930	102,941	65,627	117,212
Coffee	38	65	132	276	347	256	317	793	3,319	7,305	15,137	19,148	17,165	39,092
Piassava ..	3,791	2,338	4,118	2,958	2,159	2,785	5,348	40,369	55,655	236,352	150,315	88,345	118,744	273,336
Ginger	2,705	1,640	982	1,451	1,318	1,395	2,251	60,680	53,533	51,819	71,258	73,682	146,790	563,936
Totals ..	73,505	52,623	54,118	69,328	76,922	89,420	88,084	614,232	544,514	1,107,887	1,815,899	2,349,394	3,086,295	3,616,805

Cocoa since 1939 and palm products since 1947 are valued at f.o.b. cost price (i.e., price to producer plus expenses to f.o.b. stage).

Both within the Territory and elsewhere, experience has shown the possibility of bringing about a marked increase in the value of palm products available for export. Substitution of systematic planting of improved varieties of palm in place of collection from wild varieties, will undoubtedly increase the yield of fruit. And by substituting hand presses and " Pioneer " oil mills for the wasteful methods generally employed hitherto, the rate of extraction of oil can be greatly increased and its free fatty acid content reduced. Much progress has already been made in these directions, and apart from those day to day activities of the Agricultural Department which are designed to promote these ends, the more recent additions to the Territory's Development Plan include provision for expenditure of some £529,000 on these objects, from the funds of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board (see Section IV below).

The West African Produce Control Board was instituted in the early war period with the object of absorbing the effects of the war on the markets for West African produce, and in August, 1949, the main functions of the board were transferred to a newly created statutory body : the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board. Accumulated surplus funds were handed over for the initial finance of operations and for ultimate disposal in accordance with the Board's statute. The Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board is now the sole purchaser for export of palm kernels and palm oil, groundnuts, oilseeds, cocoa and coffee. The Board operates through its licensed purchasing agents who are remunerated by fixed margins. Prices to the producer, for the various kinds and grades of produce handled, are fixed and announced in advance for the crop year or season, and minimum guaranteed prices may be quoted for two or more years ahead. The producer is thus protected from the uncertainties and inequities which result from short-term price fluctuations, production is stimulated and harmful speculation discouraged. Surplus funds accumulated in good years—when the price received exceeds, after deduction of costs, that paid to farmers—may, and very largely will, be returned to producers in bad years—when world prices fall below those paid by the Board. By its statute the Board is also authorized, however, to apply surplus funds in other ways directly benefiting those bodies of producers concerned ; these include research, improvement of local communications in the areas concerned, and

Digitized by Google

provision of milling and storage facilities. One such project, to benefit the palm-products industry, is described above and in section IV below.

Under this stimulus and the further spur of buoyant markets and good prices, there have been substantial increases in the production and export of palm products, groundnuts, cocoa and coffee. But considerable scope remains for further expansion which is being encouraged, also, by vigorous administrative action described in a previous paragraph.

The exportable surplus of oilseeds is sold under contract to the Ministry of Food. Kola nuts, piassava fibre and ginger continue to be handled by individual exporters dealing on the open market, and their prices are consequently more subject to short-period fluctuation.

Forestry

Sierra Leone's forest resources are poor. The total area of land under high forest is roughly estimated at 1,000 square miles (which is less than 4 per cent of the total land area) but by no means the whole of this can be regarded as productive. The mountainous terrain of some of the forest areas precludes their exploitation; others are too remote from existing lines of communication and markets.

At the end of 1949 the total area of fully constituted reserved forests was 913 square miles. In addition there is an increasing area of "Protected Forest" now totalling 88 square miles. These Protected Forests are constituted at the request of the Native Authorities and administered by the Forestry Department with funds voted by them. The Protected Forests, although they are individually very small and seldom contain exploitable timber when formed, are capable of being converted into useful timber stands by protection from fire and theft and the planting of useful tree species (up to the end of 1948 over 4,000 acres had been so planted). As they are usually in accessible places—very often along the sides of roads—they will in time make a valuable contribution to the timber resources of the country.

The timber requirements of the bulk of the indigenous population are very simple and comprise little more than small poles, which can be obtained from the communal "farm bush" and are used for fencing and building, wattles, and firewood. In the larger towns (particularly in Freetown) there is a considerable demand for sawn timber. Practically the whole of this is supplied by the Forest Department which during 1949 produced 341,362 cubic feet of sawn timber from two sawmills, one at Kasewe and one at Kenema (the former has since been closed down and the plant moved to augment the latter). The Kenema mill has a well equipped wood-workshop which has produced planed timber for use in deep water quay construction, a wide range of household and school furniture and prefabricated wooden buildings.

Fisheries

The fisheries off Sierra Leone are reported to be potentially of immense extent and value, but the small scale operations of local fishermen have not achieved their full economic exploitation, and the normal demand for fish has always exceeded the supply. Various methods are employed by local fishermen, the most important being casting nets, seine nets, hand lines, fish ponds and staked wall nets and long lines.

In 1943 Government approved the appointment of a Fisheries Development Officer and a Fisheries Branch of the Supplies Department was established. Much useful work was done between 1943 and 1945 in studying native fishing methods and making suggestions for improvement. The confidence of fishermen in the Colony fishing villages was gained and the advice given them was soon translated into increased productivity. At the end of 1942 the annual catch of native fishermen was estimated to be about 5,000 tons; by 1945 it was estimated at 6,000 tons.

A Brixham smack was purchased by Government in 1943 and was equipped and operated as a motor-driven trawler. The vessel was old and ill-adapted to tropical working but demonstrated the possibility of considerably augmenting the domestic supply of protein food by this means. A new trawler was purchased to replace the former vessel, and came into operation in 1949. Cold storage plant has been purchased, and fresh or cured fish will now be supplied beyond the Freetown area, to Bo and other large towns where a demand exists. Formerly only dried fish was available in large quantities.

Minerals

Diamonds, iron ore and chrome ore are extracted in Sierra Leone on a large scale by mining companies, and gold and platinum on a small scale by individual miners, small syndicates and a small gold-dredging company.

During the year 1949 the value of the minerals exported from Sierra Leone was £2,207,879, representing 42 per cent of the total domestic exports for that year. Of this amount the industry spent about £1,258,000 in the territory —£345,000 on wages and salaries, £727,000 on taxation, and £186,000 on other expenses (services, local products and purchases, etc.). The mining industry also imported £347,000 worth of stores, materials, equipment and fuel during the year. The value of mineral production was £2,256,261. The average number of persons engaged in the mining industry was 82 Europeans, two Syrians and 6,478 Africans.

The mineral industry of Sierra Leone is a valuable hard currency earner, as the greater proportion of the diamonds and chrome ore are ultimately sold for dollars. Some of the iron ore, too, is now being purchased by American steel manufacturers.

It is not possible to give figures of reserves for each of the principal minerals. A geological survey of the territory is now being undertaken.

The mineral rights of Sierra Leone are vested in the Crown by Section 3 of the Minerals Ordinance, Cap. 144, except for the Marampa iron ore deposits which are worked under the Concessions Ordinance. Save for these deposits, therefore, all mineral rights held by individuals or companies are under lease, licence, or right issued on behalf of the Crown under the Mineral Ordinance.

The output of diamonds was 655,485 carats in 1950. These are obtained from alluvial deposits in the Kono District by a company which holds a monopoly for the exploration and production of diamonds over the whole of Sierra Leone, with the exception of the small areas known as the Marampa Concession of the Tonkolili Agreement Area. Diamonds of good gem quality and industrial stones are found.

Iron ore, of which 1,165,969 tons was produced in 1950, is mined at Marampa by open-cast methods. Two kinds of saleable ore are obtained: red ore from the surface capping, and powder specular haematite from below the capping. The ore is transported by the company's own railway for a distance of 50 miles to Pepel, where a modern installation loads it into ocean-going ships. There is the possibility of the expansion of the iron ore industry by the opening up of further deposits in the Tonkolili District, for which purpose it will be necessary to extend the existing mineral railway by some 90 miles.

The production of chrome ore in 1950 was 7,399 tons. This is mined near Hangha by open-cast methods and transported by the Sierra Leone Railway to Freetown, where it is loaded into ocean-going ships.

Of 4,006 ounces of gold mined in 1950, the main producer was the Pampana Mining Company, Limited, who dredged the Pampana River. Gold is also obtained under a scheme introduced in January, 1948, permitting natives of the Protectorate to mine on their own account under short-term licences. A company registered locally has permission to mine lode gold at Baomahun, but operations are still in the initial stages.

Digitized by Google

The Government is exploring some lignite deposits situated about 35 miles from Freetown; about one-and-a-half million tons of lignite have been proved to exist.

Some work is still being done on the alluvial platinum deposits in the Babadori Valley. A total of 38 ounces was produced in 1949.

Deposits of ilmenite and of titaniferous iron ore, in the Colony hills near Hastings, have been the subject of investigation by a British company.

Other known mineral occurrences of Sierra Leone in which interest has not recently been shown include :—

Manganese ..	Residual deposits near Bradford.
Bauxite ..	Occurrences in the laterite deposits of the Colony Peninsula.
Monozite ..	Alluvial occurrences in the rivers of the South-Western Province.
Cassiterite ..	Alluvial occurrences in the Kono and Koinadugu District.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ANNUAL MINERAL PRODUCTION AND ITS VALUE

Year	Crude Gold and Unrefined Gold Bullion (oz. troy)	Platinum Coarse Crude (oz. troy)	Diamond (carats)	Iron Ore (tons)	Chrome Ore (tons)	Estimated Value
						£
1929	—	26	—	—	—	252
1930	957	542	—	—	—	6,113
1931	6,650	594	—	—	—	30,815
1932	12,125	531	749	—	—	71,567
1933	15,604	431	32,017	24,550	—	178,368
1934	22,614	474	68,633	229,465*	—	376,612
1935	32,947	750	295,483	433,540*	—	905,000
1936	40,764	484	616,200	566,595*	—	1,249,696
1937	39,151	308	913,401	633,983*	729*	1,666,102
1938	32,980	180	689,621	861,955*	497*	1,684,240
1939	36,938	83	683,709	828,560*	10,585	1,744,576
1940	35,375	135	885,414	689,290*	17,496	1,621,609
1941	25,613	5	849,912	1,029,970*	13,687	1,798,402
1942	12,449	—	1,046,187	623,270*	10,557	1,534,197
1943	3,072	—	834,492	556,515*	16,048	1,452,999
1944	1,117	—	608,734	454,660*	9,695	1,152,620
1945	291	16	503,999	827,332	569	1,368,925
1946	199	105	559,232	729,398	10,138	1,514,309
1947	2,512	431	605,554	840,636	16,504	2,080,477
1948	2,746	109	465,698	952,299	7,761	1,901,718
1949	2,499	38	494,119	1,089,036	21,752	2,256,261
1950	4,006	—	655,485	1,165,969	7,399	—

* Export figures.

Local Manufactures

No complete census of production has yet been taken of the local manufacturing industries of Sierra Leone. Part of the home consumption of common soap is now supplied by the Freetown Soap Company, Limited, from its factory at Wellington, about seven miles from Freetown.

There are six mineral water factories in Sierra Leone, all in Freetown. The largest of these is owned by the Freetown Cold Storage Company, a European firm. The other five are African enterprises on a smaller scale. The local demand for mineral waters is very nearly met by these firms.

There are other manufacturing industries with fair economic prospects but which have yet to be properly organized and adequately financed. It is largely to correct this that the Development of Industries Board was formed in 1947. Since its inception up to the 30th of April, 1950, the Board had approved loans totalling £14,000 to private persons and companies. Among the projects financed are soap making, boot and shoe making, furniture making, rice milling and cleaning, clothing, weaving, palm kernel cracking, and carpentry.

Other industries include furniture and woodworking, building and marine engineering.

Village Industries

Chief among village industries are the weaving of native cloth; sail and canvas work and boatmaking in river and seashore areas; carpentry, rope making, wood carving; basket making; the extraction of oil from palm fruit.

Other Economic Activities

Distributive Trade. The large importing firms import the bulk of merchandise and distribute the goods both wholesale and retail through their branches in the Colony and the Protectorate. These also supply the needs of many traders who are not importers.

Much of the distribution of local produce is also undertaken by these firms but African, Syrian and Indian traders also play an important part as middle-men in the marketing of home grown commodities. Local markets all over the country are used to a very great extent by African petty traders for the retailing of both local and imported goods.

The Department of Commerce and Industry plays an important part in the distribution of rice in the urban area buying it in the open market and distributing it to consumers either directly or through a limited number of selected middlemen. The bulk of this rice is milled before distribution. The primary aim of these operations is to ensure an adequate supply of rice to the non-producing community during the period July to September, i.e., the three months preceding the new crop.

Government policy is also responsible for an indirect rationing of those essential imported foodstuffs which are not in plentiful supply. Importers submit monthly statements of their stock of these commodities to the Department of Commerce and Industry, which then permits the firms to release a percentage of their stock.

Professions. Numbers of workers in the principal professions at the end of 1949 were as follows :

Doctors	52
Dentists	2
Pharmacists	33
Nurses	61
Midwives	124
Lawyers—	
Government Service	7
Private	19
Architects	4
Teachers—	
Government Schools	372
Other	595

Digitized by Google

Co-operative Movement

Co-operation in Sierra Leone may be said to have started in the year immediately before the second World War on the initiative of the Department of Agriculture, when five Farmers' Societies were started in the Scarcies Area of the western part of the Colony, having the marketing of rice as their main function. Their success was derived from the premium obtained for the better quality produced. During the period of their operations they prospered and were of considerable assistance in multiplying and distributing seed of the newly introduced varieties of swamp rice. It was found necessary to provide a good deal of Government supervision for these societies, and in 1939 the Co-operative Societies Ordinance was introduced in anticipation of the appointment of a Co-operative Officer to relieve the Agricultural Department of this work; but the War intervened, staff could not be secured and the scheme went into abeyance. The premia for good quality rice disappeared under war conditions and the societies ceased operations. In other parts of the territory there have been efforts from time to time, many on local initiative, to start Associations or Societies for different co-operative purposes which have met with varying degrees of success.

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance (No. 20 of 1939) was brought into force on 14th July, 1949, and a separate Co-operative Department came into being, with headquarters at Bo.

The immediate and pressing need is for efficient training of field staff, which is at present being undertaken. The administrative staff has recently been increased, and there are eight inspectors. Rules under the Ordinance have been prepared and also model bye-laws suitable for the types of societies first in prospect, with forms of account and instructions for keeping them.

Out of 26 societies under supervision by the Registrar in April, 1950, 20 had been formed in the previous four months; they include two piassava marketing societies, a society for providing fishing gear and other necessities for fishermen, a consumers' society, a saving-and-loans society among miners, and societies for the marketing of palm kernels, cocoa fruit, and beeswax. The number of Co-operative Societies increased to 40 by the end of 1950.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment. Returns received from employers of six or more persons showed that in December, 1949, there were in such employment 17,724 persons in the Colony and 21,342 persons in the Protectorate, a total of 39,066, compared with an average monthly figure for 1949 of 38,894, and for 1948 of 35,483. It is estimated that the number of workers employed in smaller concerns is not less than 30,000, bringing the total number in wage-earning employment in Sierra Leone to approximately 70,000, at the end of 1949.

Paid employment tends to rise sharply in the New Year, and to fall during the third quarter when the rains are at their height.

The supply of labour both semi-skilled and unskilled has been generally adequate for industrial and commercial requirements. Since trade testing was begun in 1944, some 1,050 workers had received certificates as fully qualified artisans and some 3,350 as second grade artisans by the end of 1949. At the same date the Government Technical Training Centre had trained over 400 workers since 1946, by means of intensive refresher courses in response to specific requirements of industry. In addition there are large numbers of motor transport drivers trained during the war, and of merchant seamen and stevedores, for whom there is insufficient employment in Sierra Leone. Registered unemployed at the end of August, 1949 (a normal month) were as follows:

Registered unemployed. August, 1949

	Colony	*Protectorate**
Artisans	642	21
Transport Workers	172	11
Labourers and Domestic Servants	1,473	299
Maritime and Waterfront Workers	1,753	—
Other	213	38
	4,253	369

* Bo exchange.

Unemployment tended to diminish during 1949, and at the end of the year the total of registered unemployed was lower, at 4,109. The main foci of unemployment are the larger urban centres, particularly Freetown. There are no reliable means, at present, of measuring the extent of under-employment.

Minimum wages and conditions of employment have been fixed for a variety of occupations, including: forestry, furniture and woodworking; mining and quarrying; building and construction; mechanical, electrical and civil engineering; shipyards; road and rail transport. Average wage-rates in the principal industries were as follows in 1950:—

PRINCIPAL CATEGORIES OF WAGE-EARNERS, AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF WORK, 1950

	Average Wage-rates	*Number employed*	*Average hours worked per week*
Mining		7,180	45
Light	1s. 8d. per day.		
Heavy	2s. 2d. ,, ,,		
Skilled	3s. 4d. to 6s. 5d. average. Up to 11s. 2d. in special cases.		
Maritime and Waterfront		3,197	(*Maritime*) 60
Unskilled	2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.		(*Waterfront*)
Semi-skilled and skilled	3s. to 8s.		48
Merchant Marine	£13 to £18 per month	297	56
Railway			
General	2s. 6d. to 5s. 3d.		
Skilled	5s. 3d. to 8s.		
Construction, Manufacturing, Building	As for Railways	8,567	45
Road Transport (excl. small operators)	,, ,,	709	45-48
Forestry	,, ,,	682	45
Agriculture	,, ,,	1,532	45

Migrant Labour. External migration takes place only to an insignificant extent, though there exists in Freetown a settled Liberian community attracted to the port originally by prospects of sea-going employment.

Internally, the larger urban centres exercise an attraction. There is a tendency for self-employed agricultural workers to move from their farms into the towns during slack periods. Employment in the mining areas is fairly steady all the year round and the labour has become relatively stabilised.

The engagement of stevedoring labour, at Freetown, for the working of ships' cargo on vessels trading down the West Coast continues on account of the absence of suitable labour in certain ports. All these workers are engaged through the Labour Department on written contracts of service and at Wages Board rates of pay. They

Digitized by Google

are maintained on board for coastal trips of 4 to 12 weeks' duration.

There is no other organized recruiting of labour. The areas of demand are Freetown, Bo, and the mines. Workers present themselves at these employment centres and only occasional requests are made by the mines for supply of skilled workers through the Employment Exchanges. There is very little flow of money from urban-employed labour back to the rural areas.

Fuel and Power

The only natural fuel found in Sierra Leone, apart from wood, is lignite. This occurs in seams of variable thickness, up to 7 feet, inter-bedded with clays and sands of assumed Pleistocene age in the Koya Chiefdom of the Protectorate, some 20 miles to the north-east of Freetown. Approximately 1½ million tons have been proved by drilling. The lignite has been tested in England and found to be amenable to washing and briquetting treatment. The raw, sun-dried lignite has a calorific value of approximately 9,000 B.T.U. The deposit has not yet been exploited. Experiments are being conducted with a view to using lignite also for firing bricks or pottery kilns, as the associated clays are suitable for use in this way.

The Electricity Branch of the Public Works Department is responsible for all public electricity supplies throughout Sierra Leone. The principal installations are at Freetown where considerable expansion took place in war-time under the stimulus of Service requirements; in the post-war period demand has continued high. There are now three power stations, compared with one in 1939. The biggest, at Blackhall Road, was commissioned in 1945 with two 750-kW. steam-turbine generators; a third generator of 1,500-kW. capacity was installed in 1950. The expansion of electricity supply in Freetown is well illustrated by the following figures:

	UNITS GENERATED	PRIVATE CONSUMERS
1939	895,861	n.a.
1945	5,201,919	1,900
1946	5,039,850	2,400
1947	4,467,000	2,978
1948	5,067,049	3,605
1949	5,280,733	4,165

n.a. not available.

The maximum demand in 1948 was of 1,285 kW., an increase of 31 per cent over the previous year, and in 1949 was 1,340 kW., an increase of 4 per cent over 1948.

Electricity supplies are maintained, also, at Njala and at Bo; a station of 200 kW. capacity serves the airfield at Lungi.

The possibility exists of introducing hydro-electric schemes in connection with projects for improving water supplies.

There are in Freetown separate tariffs for lighting and domestic use, and for industrial power; charges are fixed at a level to make the undertaking self-supporting, and are approximately £1 10s. 0d. for the first 50 units, 11s. 0d. for the next 44 units, and 2d. per unit thereafter.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

At 31st December, 1949, the Public Debt amounted to £1,418,841, and the sinking funds to £694,899. The loans represented were chiefly incurred for such utilities as the railway and road system, and electric power supply. At the same date, the Territory's assets were £3,816,518 and liabilities £1,622,745, leaving a surplus of £2,193,773.

Revenue and expenditure totals for the period 1929-51 are given below, together with adjustments for appreciation or depreciation of the value of investments from 1937 onwards, and the amount of the accumulated surplus or General Revenue Balance:

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938-1951

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Surplus or Deficit (—)*	*Appreciation or Depreciation (—) of Investments*	*Accumulated Surplus (31st December)*
1929	740,646	871,087	—130,441	..	164,061
1930	742,972	805,725	— 62,753	..	101,308
1931	884,153	884,008	145	..	101,453
1932	872,469	831,922	40,547	..	142,001
1933	655,529	691,686	— 36,157	..	105,844
1934	598,839	603,208	— 4,369	..	101,474
1935	678,978	585,574	93,404	..	194,878
1936	969,668	879,370	90,298	..	285,176
1937	1,025,709	919,266	106,443	— 7,734	383,885
1938	886,149	910,077	— 23,928	— 17,181	342,776
1939	1,131,357	1,165,062	— 33,705	— 8,858	300,213
1940	1,139,131	951,999	187,132	17,923	505,268
1941	1,281,666	1,109,258	172,408	3,004	680,680
1942	1,478,163	1,340,418	137,745	3,032	821,457
1943	1,747,838	1,588,008	159,830	4,482	985,769
1944	1,885,090	1,684,310	200,780	3,636	1,190,185
1945	1,841,960	1,911,958	— 69,998	— 967	1,119,220
1946	2,195,474	1,833,483	361,991	37,372	1,518,583
1947	2,109,638	2,119,823	— 10,185	— 36,879	1,471,519
1948	2,648,983	2,172,031	476,952	11,674	1,960,145
1949	2,730.340	2,457,661	+ 272,679	— 39,051	2,193,773
1950*	3,280,456	3,182,616	+ 97,840	..	..
1951†	3,868,553	4,147,104	—278,551		

* Revised Estimates.

† Draft Estimates.

Digitized by Google

In the following tables, the total revenue and expenditure for recent post-war years are broken down under the main heads; the corresponding figures for 1938 are shown for the purpose of a broad comparison:

ANALYSIS OF REVENUE, 1938, 1947-1949 AND 1951

Head of Revenue	1938		1947		1948		1949		1951*	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
Ordinary:										
Customs duties:										
Import	332,030	37·47	840,311	39·83	911,136	34·40	1,051,684	38·52	1,274,000	32·93
Export	70,366	7·94	115,239	5·46	122,584	4·63	139,939	5·12	392,200	10·14
Harbour and Light Dues	17,135	1·93	16,064	0·76	17,682	0·67	17,699	0·65	19,000	0·49
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	38,249	4·32	46,570	2·21	52,418	1·98	58,069	2·13	57,510	1·49
Taxes	238,272	26·89	556,069	26·36	992,342	37·46	964,191	35·30	1,053,000	27·22
Fees, Payments for Services and Reimbursements	63,313	7·14	194,450	9·22	165,853	6·26	162,154	5·94	194,000	5·02
Post Office	23,922	2·70	47,534	2·25	63,177	2·38	64,604	2·37	68,127	1·76
Rents of Government Property	769	0·09	17,485	0·83	18,707	0·71	19,389	0·71	23,700	0·61
Interest and Loan Repayments	11,260	1·27	39,930	1·89	44,049	1·66	44,685	1·64	45,760	1·18
Miscellaneous	9,996	1·13	33,782	1·60	40,919	1·54	30,848	1·13	39,895	1·03
Total Ordinary Revenue	805,312	90·88	1,907,434	90·41	2,428,867	91·69	2,553,262	93·51	3,167,192	81·87
Extraordinary:										
Land Sales	—	—	1,799	0·08	40	0·00	—	—	50	0·00
Investments (1)	97	0·01	1,193	0·06	561	0·02	—	—		
Reserve Funds (2)	14,528	1·64	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Special Receipts	—	—	82,400	3·91	78,116	2·95	64,909	2·38	93,691	2·42
Colonial Development and Welfare Vote	66,212	7·47	116,812	5·54	141,399	5·34	112,169	4·11	607,620	15·71
Total Revenue	886,149	100·00	2,109,638	100·00	2,648,983	100·00	2,730,340	100·00	3,868,553	100·00

* Approved Estimates.

(1) Profit on sales of investments.

(2) Interest on Reserve Fund investments, credited to the Reserve Funds up to and including 1939, thereafter credited to general revenue.

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE, 1938, 1947-1949 AND 1951

Head of Expenditure	1938		1947		1948		1949		1951*	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
Ordinary:										
Debt Service	41,580	4·57	47,795	2·25	47,795	2·20	47,795	1·94	129,706	3·13
Pensions and Gratuities	72,523	7·97	114,138	5·38	123,872	5·70	126,235	5·14	128,030	3·09
Defence	37,095	4·08	55,944	2·64	55,944	2·58	66,000	2·69	80,000	1·93
Law and Order	44,252	4·86	130,563	6·16	143,111	6·59	166,721	6·78	204,048	4·92
Civil Administration Central Government	65,238	7·17	119,604	5·64	111,077	5·11	122,501	4·98	210,716	5·09
Provincial Administration	67,204	7·39	114,622	5·41	108,806	5·01	105,693	4·30	132,477	3·19
Miscellaneous Services	37,794	4·15	112,428	5·30	137,146	6·31	169,041	6·88	251,611	6·07
Survey, Land and Mines	14,929	1·64	26,474	1·25	27,456	1·26	23,013	0·94	30,024	0·72
Forests	7,515	0·83	17,180	0·81	17,770	0·82	17,313	0·70	34,742	0·84
Agriculture	19,789	2·18	66,531	3·14	72,972	3·36	68,042	2·77	78,636	1·90
Public Works	68,287	7·50	182,044	8·59	231,964	10·68	248,140	10·10	297,354	7·17
Public Works (Electricity)	11,858	1·30	48,602	2·29	51,941	2·39	62,960	2·56	97,186	2·34
Railway	54,271	5·96	164,835	7·78	79,620	3·67	98,001	3·99	102,986	2·48
Road Transport	4,589	0·50	67,767	3·20	85,353	3·93	90 349	3·68	102,173	2·46
Post Office	17,194	1·89	40,467	1·91	45,344	2·09	59,247	2·41	90,241	2·18
Commerce and Industry	—	—	n.a. ( )	—	12,778	0·59	20,439	0·83	47,852	1·15
Labour	—	—	6,480	0·31	13,343	0·61	12,917	0·52	16,563	0·40
Education	41,214	4·53	78,147	3·69	102,570	4·72	137,005	5·57	237,790	5·73
Medical	79,580	8·74	192,126	9·06	203,483	9·37	212,075	8·63	251,857	6·07
Other Expenditure	10,083	1·11	13,842	0·65	21,408	0·99	19,569	0·80	38,524	0·93
Total Ordinary Expenditure	694,995	76·37	1,599,589	75·46	1,693,753	77·98	1,873,056	76·21	2,562,516	61·79
Extraordinary:										
Public Works	74,152	8·15	43,954	2·07	59,204	2·73	80,829	3·29	505,930	12·20
Road Transport	—	—	11,390	0·54	20,235	0·93	31,625	1·29	50,914	1·23
Loans to Local Bodies	50,822	5·58	1,000	0·05	10,590	0·49	17,540	0·71	34,500	0·83
Investments	377	0·04	1,951	0·09	160	0·00	1,655	0·07	—	—
Reserve Funds	14,528	1·60	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Development Schemes	54,281	5·96	340,003	16·04	364,991	16·81	450,419	18·33	918,714	22·15
Other Expenditure	20,922	2·30	121,936	5·75	23,098	1·06	2,537	0·10	74,530	1·80
Total Expenditure	910,077	100·00	2,119,823	100·00	2,172,031	100·00	2,457,661	100·00	4,147,104	100·00

* Approved Estimates.

Digitized by Google

Until 1936, revenue consisted mainly of customs receipts. Substantial receipts from the taxation of mining companies since 1936, together with the proceeds of Income Tax, introduced in 1943, have helped to put the revenue on a broader and somewhat more stable basis. The economy remains heavily dependent on world markets for primary produce—particularly agricultural products—however, and major fluctuations in these markets cannot fail to have some effect on the economy in general and on the revenues of Government. The operation of stabilization funds may be expected to modify but not entirely to offset these effects.

In the Protectorate, House Tax is payable at the rate of 5s. per annum for every adult male African; persons owning more than one house pay a further 5s. in respect of each additional house.

Poll Tax is payable at the rate of £2 per half year or part thereof, by all non-African adults, resident in Sierra Leone for more than three months; exempted categories include temporary residents, persons under eighteen, married women living with their husbands, and persons paid from Imperial funds. Where Income Tax is also payable, the amount of Poll Tax is offset, as a credit against Income Tax.

Income Tax, first imposed in 1943, is levied on individuals at rates varying from 3d. in the £ on the first £200 of chargeable income, to 10s. in the £ on chargeable income after the first £10,000. Certain allowances are granted, including personal allowance (single £150, married £350), child allowance (resident £25, non-resident £100 up to a maximum of four children), and allowances in respect of life insurance premia and contributions to approved provident funds. The rate of Income Tax on Companies was raised in 1946 from 5s. in the £ to its present (1950) level of 7s. 6d. in the £. Profits Tax is paid by two mining undertakings, according to the terms of their agreements with the Government. The following table gives particulars of tax assessments during the Income Tax year ended 31st March, 1950.

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS: YEAR ENDED MARCH 1950

Head	*Taxpayers*	*Tax Assessed*
		£
Companies in U.K.	20	341,931
Companies in Sierra Leone(1) ..	19	102,912
Trades and Professions		
(*a*) Europeans	19	2,572
(*b*) Africans	246	1,909
(*c*) Syrians and others ..	579	8,399
Government Staff:		
(*a*) European(2)	410	6,384
(*b*) African	159	640
Pensioners	78	353
Employees:		
(*a*) European	464	12,421
(*b*) African	75	65
(*c*) Syrian and other	63	501
Total	2,132	478,087

(1) Companies liable for assessment only.
(2) Including Admiralty.

A comparison of the figures of expenditure reveals a significant reduction in the proportion of total expenditure going to national debt service, pensions and gratuities, defence, and central and provincial administration, while an increasing share of an expanding total expenditure is devoted to economic services and development.

Local Government

Freetown City Council

The Freetown City Council's estimates for 1949-50, the first full year since the Council was reconstituted in its present form in late 1948, provide for revenue of £47,649 and expenditure of £47,204. The chief sources of revenue, at present, are the city rate at 2s. in the £ which is to provide £19,600 and market and slaughter-house fees providing £9,200. Grants from the Central Government at present total some £1,300, of which £750 is for general purposes.

The financial responsibilities of the City Council, and the financial relationship between Government and City Council are at present under review.

Rural Areas Council

The Rural Areas Council has an annual revenue of about £4,000, of which approximately £2,000 is derived from House Tax at 5s. per house, and some £1,300 from Government grants. Expenditure in recent years has been generally in excess of revenue, and the reserve fund has been reduced from about £3,000 in 1945 to some £300 at the end of 1949. Estimated expenditure for 1950 is £4,132, divided roughly equally between personal emoluments with other administrative charges, and annually recurrent public works.

Sherbro Judicial Board

The annual revenue of Sherbro Judicial Board is approximately £1,200, of which £670 comes from House Tax and £300 from Government grants, the remainder being derived from fees and licences. The whole of the revenue is expended on recurrent public works items: upkeep of roads and bridges, street lighting, and so on. During 1949 £800 was withdrawn from the reserve fund for extraordinary expenditure on the relaying of streets and various sanitary works; the fund now amounts to some £2,000.

Native Administrations

Reorganization of Chiefdoms in the Protectorate into local government units, known as Native Administrations, was begun in 1936. By 1949, out of 199 Chiefdoms, 136 had been so reorganized. Each Native Administration is required during the first five years of its existence to build up a reserve equal to at least half a year's recurrent revenue. The estimated total revenue and expenditure for 1949 were £156,196 and £164,052 respectively, and at the end of 1949 the total of reserves was estimated to be £139,254. The fields of expenditure of these Native Administrations include Agriculture, Forestry, Health and Education. Grants are made by the Central Government to Provincial Committees and to District Councils for development purposes.

Revenue is derived mainly from the local rate or Chiefdom Tax, payable on the same basis as Government House Tax, at rates varying from 4s. to 10s. per taxpayer. Government pays a grant at the rate of 1s. per taxpayer. Local market, court and other fees are a further source of revenue.

Currency and Banking

The Bank of British West Africa was established in Freetown in 1898, and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) in 1917. The Bank of British West Africa established a branch at Bo in November, 1949.

The West African Currency Board, which was established in 1913, is responsible for providing the currency required in the Colony. The Board is represented locally by a Currency Officer and its agents are the Bank of British West Africa, Limited. It issues notes of the face value of £1 and 10s., nickel-bronze coins of ½d., 1d., and 3d., and alloy coins of 6d., 1s., and 2s. At the 31st December, 1949, West African Currency Board notes in circulation were estimated at £550,369 and coin at £1,425,500. These figures are based on net issues of currency by the Currency Officer and include amounts held in the Banks, and therefore not in active circulation. Normally banks' cash holdings are a small proportion of currency issued but vary in accordance with the Banks' estimates of needs based on crop and price fluctuations.

Native Administrations are authorized to make loans from their surplus balances to farmers known to have

Digitized by Google

cultivated land. The limit of loan to each farmer is £5, repayment to be made at harvest at an interest rate of 10 per cent. Loans are granted only to land holders and actual farmers in a chiefdom. The Paramount Chief guarantees that the farmer is a land holder, but is not financially responsible in default of payment. Loans granted for minor local development purposes include Protected Forests, rice seed distribution and oil palm planting.

Loans to assist farmers to clear and cultivate mangrove forest have been made with encouraging results from the Protectorate Mining Benefits Fund and from Government funds. A " Revolving Fund " has been set up from which farmers are advanced sums of up to £10 each. The money is advanced in respect of two or three lots, the amount for the second not being advanced till a suitable area of land has been " brushed " (i.e., cleared) with the first loan. Borrowers are allowed up to four years to repay the loan. Loans totalling £3,200 have enabled 3,535 acres of land to be cleared within four years.

Private Investment

There were 60 registered companies operating within Sierra Leone at the beginning of 1950, of which 26 were resident (incorporated within the Territory) and 34 were non-resident.

Of the 26 companies, all private, incorporated internally, there are 15 having share capital of less than £5,000, of which two have a capital below £500 and seven have capital between £4,500 and £5,000. Six have share capital exceeding £25,000. The fields of activity of these companies include mining, general merchandising, baking and confectionery, entertainments, soap manufacture, mineral water manufacture, newspapers, hotels, shipping, and road transport. Nine of these companies, having share capital totalling some £60,000, are owned and operated entirely by Africans.

Of the 34 companies incorporated externally, 13 are public companies and 21 are private companies. Of the former, eight were incorporated in England, two in the Gold Coast, two in France, and one in the United States of America. Of the latter, 18 were incorporated in England, and three in the Gold Coast. Excluding NAAFI and the Church Missionary Trust Association, there are 14 non-resident companies with capital not exceeding £100,000, nine with capital between £100,000 and £500,000, three with capital between £500,000 and £1,000,000, and six with capital of over £1,000,000.

National Income

Statistics available at present do not permit an estimate of the national income of Sierra Leone with any approach to accuracy.

Cost of Living

The official cost of living index, published quarterly in the Gazette, is based on a survey in 1942-43 of a number of working-class family budgets. The weights used in the compilation of the all-items index are as follows : food 29·2 ; rent 8·6 ; fuel 4·5 ; clothing 6·0 ; household utensils 1·0 ; miscellaneous 4·7 ; (total 54·0). A new enquiry and a revision of the index base are under consideration. Movements of the index in recent years are shown in the following table :—

COST OF LIVING INDEX (1939 = 100)

Year	*1st Qtr.*	*2nd Qtr.*	*3rd Qtr.*	*4th Qtr.*	*Annual Average*
1944	242	255	255	255	252
1945	236	225	231	243	234
1946	242	240	247	219	237
1947	227	241	234	229	233
1948	236	246	250	236	242
1949	241	243	274	242	250
1950	244	245	265	266	255
1951	277	332			

No system of rationing is in operation, but by controlling releases of imported goods, as well as by holding reserves of rice, Government endeavours to ensure even distribution throughout the year and so prevent serious shortages which might lead to abrupt increases in the cost of living.

Digitized by Google

Balance of Trade

The external trade of Sierra Leone is summarized in the following table, for the period 1935 to 1950.

BALANCE OF TRADE 1935-1950

Year	Total Imports	Re-exports	Retained Imports	Domestic Exports	Export Surplus
	£	£	£	£	£
1935	1,126,640	14,043	1,112,597	1,556,816	444,219
1936	1,298,459	106,030	1,192,429	2,225,943	1,033,514
1937	1,692,030	160,521	1,531,509	2,820,178	1,288,669
1938	1,367,038	149,537	1,217,501	2,344,195	1,126,694
1939	1,386,197	248,752	1,137,445	2,171,722	1,034,277
1940	2,263,475	1,139,701	1,123,774	2,139,624	1,015,850
1941	3,230,221	1,359,960	1,870,261	1,414,657	— 455,604
1942	3,737,504	1,430,327	2,307,177	2,304,358	— 2,819
1943	5,585,201	1,726,614	3,858,587	2,570,705	—1,287,882
1944	5,274,203	1,833,538	3,440,665	1,984,917	—1,455,748
1945	3,608,334	1,232,114	2,376,220	2,409,908	33,688
1946	3,911,384	662,902	3,248,482	2,353,857	— 894,625
1947	4,586,922	734,298	3,852,624	3,648,000	— .204,624
1948	4,979,180	558,128	4,421,052	4,249,167	— 171,885
1949	5,809,584	421,467	5,388,117	5,340,915	— 47,202
1950	6,745,865	287,298	6,458,567	6,661,232	— 202,665

NOTES.—(1) The table above is based on the Trade Reports of Sierra Leone for 1948 and 1949, table 22, the figures of which have, however, been adjusted :

(*a*) The figures shown above are inclusive of imports and exports of bullion but exclusive of imports and re-exports of specie and currency notes. Imports of bullion, for non-monetary (i.e., industrial) purposes, are small, but exports of newly-mined gold as bullion are substantial.

(*b*) Table 22 of the Trade Reports for 1948 and 1949 includes the value of diamonds exported only up to and including 1940 ; adjustment has therefore been made by adding in diamond exports as follows :

1941 no exports of diamonds recorded
1942 £1,309,000
1943 1,587,000
1944 790,000
1945 788,000
} Source : Cmd. 7224 (approx. figures)

1946 513,237
1947 1,117,153
1948 923,368
} Official, hitherto unpublished figures

(*c*) Exports and re-exports for 1935 only, in the table above, are exclusive of ships' stores.

(2) Imports are valued c.i.f., and exports f.o.b., with the exception of cocoa after 1939 and of palm products, groundnuts and oilseeds after 1947. These were valued at prices paid to producers plus costs to the f.o.b. stage (what may be called " f.o.b. cost price "), and not at world prices, i.e., not at the prices received abroad less insurance and freight (" true " f.o.b. price or what may be called " f.o.b. selling price "). From the difference between these f.o.b. cost and f.o.b. selling prices there emerges an " export produce differential ", which may be positive or negative in any given year but which was in fact, during the periods in question, usually positive, and required therefore to be added to domestic exports and to the recorded export surplus. The export produce differentials are not identical with the surpluses realised by the Marketing Boards responsible for trade in the commodities in question, though the latter may be taken as a rough approximation to the former. The export produce differential (positive) for Sierra Leone in 1948 was £677,394 ; previous to 1947 it was considerably less, probably running at little more than £5,000 per annum.

Heavy military expenditure in Sierra Leone during the war years was the principal factor responsible for the very great increase in imports and the emergence of an import surplus which reached a peak in 1943 and 1944. From the figures for re-exports it will be seen that coal for bunkers played a substantial part in this expansion of imports. With the end of hostilities exports rose rapidly, especially in value terms, and the increase in imports was checked in spite of the growing civil demand for both consumption and capital goods.

Digitized by Google

In the following tables, the principal classes and items of exports and imports are distinguished separately, for the years 1938, 1948 and 1949 :—

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS, (F.O.B.), 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value* (£)	*Main countries of destination with values in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Main countries of destination with values in £000*	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Main countries of destination with values in £000*
Class I										
Cocoa	tons	384	5,849	Netherlands (2), Germany (2), U.K. (2).	1,379	102,941	U.K. (all).	714	65,627	U.K. (all).
Coffee	,,	38	793		349	19,259	U.K. (15), Belgium (2), Italy (1).	257	17,165	U.K. (10), Italy (4), Belgium (3).
Coconuts	Nos.	14,199	44	Gambia (all).	62,824	719		137,282	1,600	U.K. (1).
Kola Nuts	tons	1,450	29,785	Gambia (12), Senegal (10), French Guinea (3), Nigeria (3), Portuguese Guinea (2).	1,841	166,633	Gambia (157), Fr. Guinea (5), Port. Guinea (3), Nigeria (2).	1,680	155,216	Gambia (105), Nigeria (48), Fr. Guinea (2).
Ginger	,,	2,705	60,680	U.S.A. (26), U.K. (17), Germany (5), Morocco (3), France (3), Canada (2).	1,319	73,682	U.S.A. (34), U.K. (34), Netherlands (3), Australia (1).	1,395	146,790	U.K. (106), U.S.A. (24), Australia (5), Germany (4), New Zealand (2), Canada (2).
Peppers and Chillies ..	,,	90	3,410	U.K. (2), Germany (1).	16	1,507	Gambia (1).	29	3,836	Gambia (2), U.K. (1).
Class II										
Palm Kernels	,,	63,697	457,031	U.K. (172), Netherlands (157), Germany (106), Denmark (11), U.S.A. (6), Czechoslovakia (2).	66,431	1,744,591	U.K. (all).	76,541	2,314,038	U.K. (all).
Palm Oil	,,	1,066	16,025	U.K. (8), Denmark (5), Gambia (2).	2,214	116,364	U.K. (102), Gambia (14).	3,308	186,348	U.K. (147), Gambia (38).
Groundnuts	,,	—	—		891	26,597	U.K. (all).	2,454	71,639	U.K. (all).
Benniseed	,,	374	3,700	Germany (2), Denmark (1).	350	11,538	U.K. (all).	287	10,728	U.K. (all).
Piassava Fibre	tons	3,791	40,369	U.K. (18), U.S.A. (9), Germany (7), Belgium (2), S. Africa (2), Netherlands (2).	2,160	88,345	U.K. (56), U.S.A. (17), Denmark (9), S. Africa (4), Belgium (1), France (1).	2,785	118,744	U.K. (58), U.S.A. (35), Germany (9), S. Africa (6), France (4), Denmark (3), Belgium (2).
Diamonds	carats	—	858,055	U.K. (all).	461,685	923,368	U.K. (all).	537,397	1,097,816	U.K. (all).
Chrome Ore	tons	—	—		8,411	42,655	U.S.A. (37), U.K. (5).	17,656	91,732	U.S.A. (all).
Iron Ore	,,	861,955	646,421	Netherlands (424), U.K. (143), Poland (71), Germany (8).	916,486	869,238	U.K. (741), Germany (89), Netherlands (21), U.S.A. (18).	966,016	996,552	U.K. (784), Germany (108), U.S.A. (85), Belgium (19).
Platinum	Oz. troy	135	1,004	U.K. (all).	—	1,689	U.K. (all).	—	810	U.K. (all).
Class V										
Gold	Fine oz. troy	31,505	207,940	U.K. (all).	3,996	29,971	U.K. (all).	2,046	20,969	U.K. (all).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS (C.I.F.) 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Main countries of origin, with values in £000	Quantity	Value (£)	Main countries of origin, with value in £000	Quantity	Value (£)	Main countries of origin, with values in £000
Class I										
Wheat Flour	tons	1,495	24,031	Canada (22), U.K. (2).	1,848	90,937	Canada (46), U.S.A. (45).	2,879	127,108	U.S.A. (68), Canada (59).
Salt	,,	3,312	17,476	U.K. (all).	4,163	44,997	U.K. (all).	6,159	72,727	U.K. (all).
Sugar	,,	883	10,080	U.K. (8), Czechoslovakia (2).	1,369	62,881	U.K. (all).	1,683	77,514	U.K. (all).
Vegetables	,,	1,233	15,515	Italy (5), Madeira (3), Netherlands (2), Egypt (2), U.K. (1), Cyprus (1).	1,409	48,095	Madeira (20), Netherlands (13), Italy (8), U.K. (3), South Africa (3).	1,457	57,377	Italy (18), Madeira (14), Netherlands (12), Egypt (6), U.K. (4).
Ales, Beer, etc.	gals.	152,750	28,124	U.K. (19), Eire (9), Germany (1).	180,711	69,435	U.K. (46), Eire (19), Denmark (4), Netherlands (1).	276,001	103,707	U.K. (63), Eire (39), Denmark (2).
Wines	,,	48,951	11,472	S. Africa (3), Spain (2), France (1), Cyprus (1), Germany (1), Netherlands (1).	86,643	43,484	S. Africa (36), France (2), Cyprus (2), Spain (2).	133,610	66,545	S. Africa (53), Cyprus (7), France (3), Spain (2·5).
Spirits	,,	11,058	11,194	U.K. (8), France (1), Jamaica (1).	22,302	36,441	U.K. (23), Jamaica (5), France (4), Netherlands (1), Trinidad (1).	23,631	37,973	U.K. (24), Jamaica (6), France (4), Netherlands (1), Trinidad (1).
Cigarettes	tons	27	17,953	U.K. (all).	87	91,277	U.K. (all).	97	100,720	U.K. (all).
Unmanufactured Tobacco	,,	511	48,701	U.S.A. (18), Canada (17), Nyasaland (13), S. Africa (1).	524	135,117	Nyasaland (all).	608	208,557	Nyasaland (203), S. Rhodesia (4), S. Africa (1).
Class II										
Coal	,,	77,956	123,530	U.K. (all).	69,455	337,585	U.K. (293), Nigeria (44).	61,820	302,893	U.K. (all).
Class III										
Footwear	pairs	149,359	16,485	U.K. (9), India (5), Hong Kong (2).	108,308	54,265	U.K. (46), S. Rhodesia (3), Hong Kong (2), S. Africa (1), India (1).	165,909	57,190	U.K. (46), Hong Kong (6), S. Rhodesia (3), India (1).
Headgear	Nos.	265,968	10,006	U.K. (4), Japan (2), Hong Kong (1), Germany (1).	172,698	28,659	U.K. (25), Hong Kong (1), France (1), Czechoslovakia (1).	154,840	29,634	U.K. (28), France (1).
Shirts	,,	106,054	6,723	Hong Kong (5), U.K. (2).	155,426	34,484	Hong Kong (20), U.K. (14).	78,525	18,468	U.K. (10), Hong Kong (8).
Singlets, Vests, etc.	,,	181,726	5,023	Hong Kong (3), U.K. (2).	588,337	70,154	U.K. (53), Hong Kong (10), India (5), S. Africa (1).	281,082	30,452	U.K. (25), Hong Kong (2), Japan (1·5), Czechoslovakia (1).
Cotton Piece Goods :										
Grey unbleached	sq. yds.	506,741	6,199	U.K. (4), India (2).	904,036	56,338	India (28), Germany (17), Japan (5), U.K. (5), Italy (1).	1,646,371	98,448	India (67), Japan (12), Germany (9), U.K. (9).
White bleached	,,	2,294,988	42,002	U.K. (41), India (1).	2,075,706	167,086	U.K. (59), U.S.A. (33), Germany (29), India (22), Japan (13), Italy (5).	2,388,184	190,107	U.K. (110), Japan (42), India (16), Germany (11), France (8), Italy (4).
Printed	,,	1,656,124	38,270	U.K. (all).	4,787,725	435,506	U.K. (370), U.S.A. (26), Germany (14), Japan (8), Czechoslovakia (7), Belgium (4).	4,027,130	388,518	U.K. (336), Germany (35), France (6), U.S.A. (6), India (3), Japan (1).
Dyed in the piece	,,	1,104,531	32,383	U.K. (27), India (2), French Guinea (2).	1,525,048	187,323	U.K. (115), Germany (22), India (16), Nigeria (13), U.S.A. (11), Japan (5), Italy (4).	2,180,836	248,554	U.K. (157), India (27), Germany (26), Japan (17), U.S.A. (14), Nigeria (3).
Coloured	,,	1,674,050	54,318	India (30), U.K. (21), Nigeria (1).	2,269,074	279,721	India (106), U.K. (99), Germany (25), Hong Kong (20), U.S.A. (9), Netherlands (6), France (5), Nigeria (5).	3,412,261	404,067	India (209), U.K. (103), Germany (29), Japan (19), Hong Kong (14), Nigeria (10), France (8), Belgium (5), Netherlands (4).

Digitized by Google

Cotton Fents	sq. yds.	—	7,408	U.K. (all).	589,288	41,139	U.K. (39), Netherlands (1), India (1).	899,176	56,784	U.K. (55), India (1).
Art. Silk Piece Goods ..	„	335,785	14,155	U.K. (11), Germany (2).	520,876	89,424	U.K. (all).	546,538	76,544	U.K. (74), Japan (2).
Wool Piece Goods	„	51,634	5,420	U.K. (all).	77,423	34,923	U.K. (all).	69,362	29,495	U.K. (all).
Electrical Apparatus ..	—	—	13,779	U.K. (all).	—	102,181	U.K. (93), U.S.A. (3), Netherlands (3), Hong Kong (2).	—	126,314	U.K. (119), Hong Kong (5).
Implements and Tools ..	—	—	8,764	U.K. (6), Germany (1), Belgium (1).	—	37,184	U.K. (25), U.S.A. (11), France (1).	—	65,076	U.K. (35), U.S.A. (25), France (4).
Machinery :										
Electrical...	—	—	43,316	U.K. (all).	—	11,354	U.K. (all).	—	16,608	U.K. (all).
Industrial	—	—	2,852	U.K. (all).	—	18,337	U.K. (17), U.S.A. (1).	—	25,162	U.K. (22), France (2), U.S.A. (1).
Marine	—	—	4,738	U.K. (all).	—	18,893	U.K. (18), Netherlands (1).	—	11,543	U.K. (11).
Mining and Gold-dredging	—	—	64,341	U.K. (54), U.S.A. (10).	—	94,610	U.K. (90), Canada (3), U.S.A. (2).	—	118,043	U.K. (107), U.S.A. (11).
Iron and Steel Manufactures :										
Building and Mining Materials.	tons	—	47,290	U.K. (46), France (1).	—	57,209	U.K. (42), Belgium (14).	1,786	94,329	U.K. (77), Japan (9), Belgium (8).
Railway material ..	—	—	6,669	U.K. (6).	—	22,156	U.K. (all).	—	24,716	U.K. (all).
Buckets, Pails and Basins	Nos.	67,272	1,818	U.K. (1).	303,044	42,466	U.K. (37), Netherlands (3), France (1), Eire (1).	433,671	48,720	U.K. (43), Czechoslovakia (5).
Other Iron and Steel Manufactures.	—	—	31,870	U.K. (25), Germany (2·4), Japan (1·6), Belgium (1), Czechoslovakia (0·6).	—	163,801	U.K. (119), Belgium (10), Czechoslovakia (9), Netherlands (6).	—	264,442	U.K. (196), Czechoslovakia (21), Nigeria (14), U.S.A. (11), Belgium (9).
Vehicles and Parts :										
Railway	—	—	26,231	U.K. (all).	—	26,789	U.K. (all).	—	33,839	U.K. (all).
Road :										
Commercial Vehicles ..	items	6	1,271	U.K. (all).	22	9,908	U.K. (9), U.S.A. (1).	41	16,281	U.K. (7), Canada (7), U.S.A. (2).
Chassis with Engine ..	„	27	4,782	U.K. (4), Canada (1).	178	84,917	U.K. (52), Canada (25), U.S.A. (8).	119	64,173	U.K. (61), Canada (3).
Motor cars	„	104	15,347	U.K. (10), Canada (4).	149	58,505	U.K. (47), Canada (8), France (2), U.S.A. (2).	215	85,534	U.K. (83), France (1).
Cycles and Tricycles ..	„	274	1,157	U.K. (all).	794	6,630	U.K. (all).	788	7,065	U.K. (all).
Tyres and Tubes :										
Outer Covers	Nos.	2,667	3,787	U.K. (all).	7,875	30,991	U.K. (all).	8,061	30,654	U.K. (all).
Inner Tubes	„	2,956	440	U.K. (all).	10,404	4,127	U.K. (all).	6,592	3,532	U.K. (all).
Petrol and Oils :										
Fuel Oils	gals.	7,430,994	83,924	Trinidad (73), U.K. (5), U.S.A. (5).	1,360,599	34,018	Netherlands W. Indies (15), Netherlands (12), Trinidad (5), U.K. (2).	1,743,022	43,388	Netherlands W. Indies (34), Trinidad (9).
Lubricating Oil	„	51,135	4,566	U.S.A. (2), U.K. (2).	228,666	35,305	U.S.A. (22), U.K. (13).	110,325	20,356	U.K. (12), U.S.A. (8).
Illuminating Oil	„	460,838	21,051	U.S.A. (18), U.K. (2).	782,052	39,301	Netherlands W. Indies (39).	1,023,511	55,812	Netherlands W. Indies (48), Trinidad (7).
Motor and Aviation Spirit	„	423,466	19,620	U.S.A. (16), Trinidad (3).	1,316,754	99,525	Netherlands W. Indies (all).	1,510,479	115,233	Netherlands W. Indies (all).
Cement	tons	8,139	21,454	U.K. (all).	12,830	83,443	U.K. (75), Belgium (6), Poland (2).	17,202	105,865	U.K. (all).
Medicines and Drugs ..	—	—	17,463	U.K. (14), U.S.A. (1), Germany (1).	—	60,686	U.K. (all).	—	83,840	U.K. (81), U.S.A. (1), S. Africa (1).
Paper and Stationery ..	—	—	13,900	U.K. (13).	—	59,197	U.K. (53), Sweden (2), Poland (1).	—	56,793	U.K. (54), France (1).
Paints and Colours ..	tons	112	5,512	U.K. (all).	250	41,445	U.K. (all).	259	35,980	U.K. (35).
Other Painters' Materials ..	—	—	1,679	U.K. (all).	—	5,539	U.K. (4), Netherlands (1).	—	5,151	U.K. (4), India (1).
Perfumery	—	—	5,402	U.K. (5).	—	27,706	U.K. (24), Canada (3).	—	37,752	U.K. (37).
Soaps	tons	232	7,127	U.K. (all).	377	36,870	U.K. (32), Nigeria (5).	460	51,705	U.K. (all).

Digitized by Google

DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY DESTINATIONS 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Destination	1938		1948		1949	
	Value	%	*Value*	%	*Value*	%
	£		£		£	
United Kingdom	1,434,096	61·18	3,802,223	89·48	4,705,203	88·10
Gambia	16,439	·70	179,031	4·22	152,094	2·85
Gold Coast	516	·02	98	—	230	—
Nigeria	2,951	·13	1,985	·05	48,931	·91
Australia	1,016	·04	1,052	·02	5,673	·11
Canada	2,111	·09	509	·01	2,003	·04
Union of S. Africa	2,609	·11	3,829	·09	7,856	·15
Other	1,656	·07	—	—	2,797	·05
Total British Empire	1,461,394	62·34	3,988,727	93·87	4,924,787	92·21
Belgium	2,742	·12	4,988	·12	24,570	·46
Denmark	17,367	·74	9,283	·22	3,040	·06
France	3,635	·16	1,167	·03	5,687	·11
Germany	130,338	5·56	88,817	2·09	120,808	2·26
Italy	1,115	·05	682	·02	3,711	·07
Liberia	194	—	1,472	·03	1,709	·03
Netherlands	587,798	25·07	26,670	·63	2,576	·05
Poland	72,588	3·10	—	—	330	—
Portuguese Guinea	2,285	·10	2,760	·06	250	—
Sweden	103	—	536	·01	680	·01
U.S.A.	43,835	1·87	109,320	2·57	239,168	4·48
Other Foreign Countries ..	20,801	·89	6,342	·15	2,541	·05
Total Foreign Countries ..	882,801	37·66	252,037	5·93	405,070	7·58
Ships' Stores	—	—	8,403	·20	11,058	·21
Total Domestic Exports ..	2,344,195	100·00	4,249,167	100·00	5,340,915	100·00

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE BY SOURCES, 1938, 1948 AND 1949

Source	1938		1948		1949	
	Value	%	*Value*	%	*Value*	%
	£		£		£	
United Kingdom	904,533	66·17	3,230,335	64·88	3,702,675	63·74
British West Africa	10,610	·78	122,524	2·46	57,495	·99
Canada	51,521	3·77	130,138	2·61	120,459	2·08
Australia	923	·07	34,627	·70	44,312	·76
Eire*	9,678	·71	20,598	·41	39,633	·68
Hong Kong	16,472	1·20	71,332	1·43	50,761	·87
India	62,102	4·54	292,985	5·88	542,057	9·33
Nyasaland	12,581	·92	135,116	2·71	203,432	3·50
Union of South Africa ..	6,296	·46	56,882	1·14	63,361	1·09
Other Commonwealth ..	86,132	6·30	22,145	·44	42,941	·74
Total Commonwealth ..	1,160,848	84·92	4,116,682	82·66	4,867,126	83·78
Belgium	6,391	·47	45,825	·92	26,419	·45
Czechoslovakia	7,140	·52	26,240	·53	36,313	·63
France	9,475	·69	33,694	·68	64,741	1·11
Germany	23,214	1·70	111,307	2·24	119,925	2·06
Italy	7,690	·56	40,708	·82	44,737	·77
Japan	20,084	1·47	32,649	·66	106,762	1·84
Netherlands	6,444	·47	62,181	1·25	55,661	·96
,, W. Indies ..	801	·06	166,063	3·34	197,487	3·40
Sweden	3,149	·23	17,669	·35	22,378	·39
U.S.A.	87,360	6·39	209,480	4·21	181,439	3·12
Other Foreign Countries ..	34,442	2·52	116,682	2·34	86,596	1·49
Total Foreign Countries ..	206,190	15·08	862,498	17·34	942,458	16·22
Grand Total	1,367,038	100·00	4,979,180	100·00	5,809,584	100·00

* Eire ceased to be a member of the Commonwealth on 18-4-49.
The figure shown for 1949 represents imports for the whole year.

Digitized by Google

SIERRA LEONE

FRENCH GUINEA

LIBERIA

IVORY COAST

ATLANTIC OCEAN

NORTHERN PROVINCE

SOUTH EASTERN PROVINCE

SOUTH WESTERN PROVINCE

Great Scarcies or Kolente

Little Scarcies or Kabat

Kukuna

Makwie

Kabala

Seli

Balia

L. Sonfon

Kuruboria

Kambia

Pendembu

Bumbuna

Makeni

Mabonto

Port Loko

Magburaka

Sanden

Bagbema

Yengema

Sefadu

Jagbwema

Meli

Jaiama

Marampa

Rokel

Pepel

FREETOWN

Yonibana

Pujehun

Yele

Teye

Monger

Mandu

Kailahun

Bwedu

Boajibu

Panguma

Pendembu

Gibina

Moyamba

Banana Is.

Mano

Bo

Daru

Plantain Is.

Sembehun

Bumpe

Baoma

Blama

Kenema

Hangha

Neama

Giema

Sherbro River

Koribundu

Turtle Is.

Sherbro Is.

Matru

York

Bonthe

Gambia

Bandajama

Potoru

Gegbwema

Faiama

Moro

Mano

Pujehun

Gbunder

Zimi

Juring

Sulima

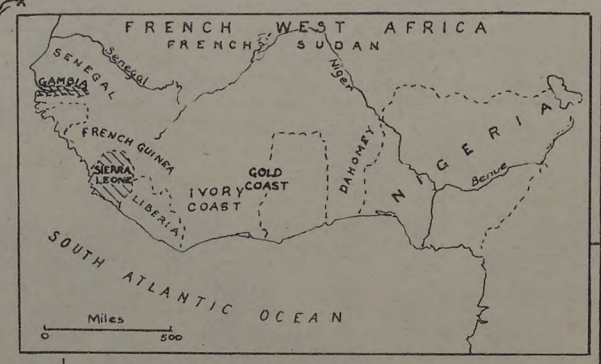
SIERRA LEONE

Scale

Miles 10 0 10 20 30 Miles

REFERENCE

Colonial Boundary		Diamonds	D
Provincial "		Gold	G
Principal Roads		Haematite	H
Railways		Chromite	C
Piassava		Manganese	M
Rice		Corundum	+
Palm (Sparse)		Graphite	X
" (Medium)		Rutile	R
" (Dense)		Bauxite	B
Cocoa		Lignite	L
Ginger		Ilmenite	T



Crown Copyright Reserved

Digitized by Google

C.B.H. 19978

Digitized by Google

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Activities

From the original, pre-war Colonial Development Fund, grants were received in aid of canalization of streams and street drainage in the Freetown area (£22,795), a passenger jetty (£7,400), roads, and a maternity hospital and training centre (£22,500), while £500,000 was made available on loan for the development of iron ore deposits at Marampa ; of this latter sum, £420,000 was actually borrowed and has since been repaid by the Company concerned.

Further grants were received and schemes initiated under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts of 1940 and 1945, and in 1946 a comprehensive Development Plan* was prepared to cover the Ten-Year period 1946-56. The Territory's basic economic needs were further examined by Mr. W. Childs, O.B.E., whose report†, approved by the Secretary of State, contains recommendations for additional development projects to be initiated in the period to 1956.

The 1946 plan envisaged expenditure totalling rather more than £5¼ million. The Guma Valley Hydro-Electric scheme was put forward outside the Development plan, at an estimated cost of some £½ million. The provision made in the plan for education was increased in 1948 by some £1¼ million, and the Childs Report embodied revised provision for several schemes at a further additional cost of some £1½ million. New schemes recommended in the Childs Report are estimated to cost rather more than £2¼ million. The cost of the entire plan of development, capital and recurrent expenditure included, over the period 1946-56 is thus estimated to be approximately £10¾ million.

It is anticipated that nearly £3 million will be met from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and a little more than £½ million from the funds of the Sierra Leone Produce Marketing Board. A loan of £2 million has been raised in London and it is planned to raise a further £3 million by this means, leaving a balance of some £2¼ million to be met from accumulated reserves and current revenue.

The principal schemes include : provision of a deep-water quay at Freetown (£1,350,000) ; improvements to track and equipment of the Government railway (£1,250,000) ; extensions to and improvement of the road system together with replacement of main road ferries by permanent bridges (£800,000) ; improvements to inland waterways including provision of wharves and landing stages (£20,000) ; provision of a civil airport at Lungi (£170,000) ; the Guma Valley Hydro electricity scheme (£550,000) ; improvement of water supplies to Freetown (£500,000), and of water and electricity supplies to urban centres in the Protectorate (£300,000) ; assistance to forest industries (£60,000). The proposed public loan of £5,000,000 will be applied to these objects.

Further items of proposed expenditure under the plan include : irrigation, drainage, and other agricultural development (£610,000) ; livestock, forests and fisheries (£175,000 approx.) ; co-operation (£30,000) ; secondary industries (£10,000) ; post and telegraphs (£75,500) ; town planning and housing (£400,000) ; technical and Public Works Department training schemes (£127,000). There is provision for expenditure totalling £1 million on expansion of medical services, special attention being given to the treatment and prevention of trypanosomiasis, yaws and leprosy. The provision for expansion of educational facilities of all grades and kinds was raised to £2,064,705 by the amendment of 1948. Provision has also been made for development expenditure under the following heads : geological and other surveys, central and provincial administrative staff, PWD staff, and buildings ; police ; social welfare.

The Produce Marketing Board has allocated some £529,000 to permit implementation of a plan for the direct benefit of the oil palm industry. This includes : (i) encouragement of planting of improved varieties of oil-palms ; (ii) a pilot scheme to demonstrate the advantages of improved varieties ; (iii) the purchase and installation of 50 Pioneer oil mills ; (iv) construction of roads and layout of mill service areas ; (v) provision of minor items of equipment, etc. By these means it is thought possible first to raise the yield per acre of palm oil and palm kernels by something between 50 per cent and 80 per cent, and then to improve considerably both the quantity and the quality of oil extracted.

In spite of persisting shortages of staff and recruitment difficulties, substantial progress has been and is being made with the implementation of the plans. The Deep Water Quay is expected to be completed before the end of 1952. Road extensions are being carried out in many parts of the Colony and Protectorate. The Civil Airport at Lungi is in operation with a full range of services. Under most heads, in fact, expenditure has been incurred and services expanded as planned, though much, of course, remains to be done.

---

* "An Outline of the Ten-Year Plan for the Development of Sierra Leone." Sierra Leone Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1946.

† "A Plan of Economic Development for Sierra Leone." Sierra Leone 1949.

Digitized by Google

E. ST. HELENA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographic and Climatic Features

St. Helena is an Island in the South Atlantic Ocean 700 miles South East of Ascension and 1,200 miles from the coast of Africa, in 15° 55′ South latitude and 5° 43′ West longitude. It is 10½ miles long and 6½ miles broad, covering an area of 47 square miles or about 30,000 acres (a little larger than Jersey). The terrain is rugged and mountainous, of volcanic origin, having precipitous cliffs 600 feet or more down to the sea ; owing to this and the rocky nature of the coastal land only about 8,600 acres are cultivable, some 3,500 being under New Zealand flax (phormium tenax). The centre of the Island rises to a ridge with a maximum height of 2,800 feet. The capital and only town and port is Jamestown on the north-west of the Island, with a population of 1,600.

The climate is mild and varies little owing to the South East trade winds which blow throughout the year. The shade temperature at Jamestown rarely exceeds 90° F. or falls below 57° F., and upland temperatures average 10° F. lower. The mean annual average air temperatures recorded at the Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate (2,066 feet) during 1949 was 61·0° F.

Rainfall during 1949 at Hutt's Gate amounted to 33·04 inches, whilst that at Jamestown was 6·39 ; rain fell in the uplands on 182 days, and the average for the year was slightly higher than that of the previous 9 years, which was 31·09 inches. The mean relative humidity at Hutt's Gate averaged 92·4 for 1949.

Ascension Island is a dependency of St. Helena and lies in latitude 7° 55′ South and longitude 14° 25′ West, and is a barren rocky peak of purely volcanic origin and devoid of vegetation except at its highest point (2,870 feet). It has an area of 38 square miles and has the one port and town Georgetown. There are no indigenous inhabitants, but the Island is solely occupied by Cable and Wireless Limited, who operate an important cable station connecting with St. Helena and all parts of the world. At present this Island has no economic importance.

Other dependencies are the Tristan da Cunha group of Islands, which include Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands, lying in latitude 37° 6′ South and longitude 12° 2′ West ; with the exception of Tristan da Cunha they are uninhabited and have no economic importance. A crayfish cannery commenced operations at Tristan da Cunha in 1949. Gough Island, 250 miles to the south of Tristan da Cunha, is also a dependency ; it is uninhabited and has no economic value save the guano to be found there.

Population

The Island population to-day is largely composed of descendants from settlers from Great Britain and slaves from Asia and Africa brought by the East India Company. The language has always been English, and the English mode of life has become firmly established.

The estimated population on 31st December, 1949, was 4,664.

The population of St. Helena as ascertained by the Census in 1946 was classified as under :—

Total Population 1946

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Islanders	2,154	2,546	4,700
Other British Residents	26	19	45
Other Nationals ..	1	2	3
	2,181	2,567	4,748

The following table shows the distribution of the population between the urban and rural districts :—

Population Distribution

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Jamestown and Briars	676	871	1,547
Country districts ..	1,505	1,696	3,201

The population of Ascension Island was 292 in 1946, and of Tristan da Cunha 230 in 1945.

Vital Statistics. (St. Helena)

Years	1946	1947	1948	1949
Births	139	165	157	149
Deaths	53	31	39	56
Infant mortality (per 1,000 births)	108	36	61	60
Still births (not included above)	2	3	5	6
Illegitimate births (included above)	32	37	52	38
Deaths of infants under 1 year old	15	6	10	9
Birth rate per 1,000	28·8	32·2	32·3	31·9
Death rate per 1,000 ..	11·0	6·2	8·0	12·0

The main age-groups of the population in 1946 were as follows :—

Population by Age-groups, 1946

Age-group	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
0-14	930	1,010	1,940
15-29	425	572	997
30-44	398	451	849
45-59	272	317	589
Over 60	156	217	373
Total ..	2,181	2,567	4,748

During the 11 year period 1938 to 1949 there were 1,340 more births than deaths ; an increase of 122 per annum. There has always been unemployment in the Island except during war. There is usually a flow of emigrants which just balances the population increase. Recently the level of unemployment has tended to fall.

The approximate numbers engaged in industry as recorded in the 1946 census were :—

Employment in Industry (1946 *Census*)

Flax industrial workers	205
Agricultural workers	165
Labourers	350
Building tradesmen and apprentices ..	85
Fishermen and boatmen	50
Mechanics and drivers	70
	925

In addition to these, many housewives make lace, embroidery and other needlework at home for sale.

Digitized by Google

Social Amenities

Education is compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and is provided free. There are 11 primary schools and one secondary. Up to 1941 all schools were managed by the Church but were then taken over by Government. In the last five years four schools have been built with funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts and the secondary school, which opened in 1946, was moved to more commodious premises in 1950. The total school population at the end of 1950 was 1,313 of whom 57 attended the secondary school. Senior schoolboys receive instruction in woodwork and joinery to fit them for apprenticeship with the Government after leaving.

Apprentices are taken into the following sections of Government departments :—

Carpentry and Joinery.
Garage
Sanitation and Plumbing.
Agriculture.

Girls receive additional training at school in lacemaking, embroidery, other needlework and cookery.

Health is cared for by the Government medical department and there are no private practitioners. The health of the population is good ; there are no tropical diseases and no special problems connected with health. The death rate is one of the lowest in the world. There is one hospital having 32 beds and six country clinics. There is, however, considerable malnutrition, resulting from unbalanced diets.

Housing. The local standard of housing takes the form of earth masonry 3–4-room stone cottages. The erection of concrete block cottages by Government with the aid of Colonial Development and Welfare grants has helped reduce the condition of over-crowding which exists in many areas. Since 1945 Government has built 105 cottages under these schemes and let them at sub-economic rentals averaging 2s. 6d. a week ; it is estimated that 11 per cent of the island's population has been re-housed by this building scheme. A further 14 self-contained flats and 13 houses have been completed in Jamestown and 58 houses built in the rural areas. Aid is given to Islanders to help them enlarge their own houses by means of building loans repayable in very small instalments ; and to encourage local building to approved specification outright grants are made to help meet the cost of the necessary imported material. There are no building societies.

Social Security. Relief allowances are provided by Government for unemployed workers, and the care of the destitute and aged is in the hands of a statutory local body, the Poor Relief Board, who are also responsible for the Asylum and Poor House. This body is in receipt of an annual grant from Government to augment its other income which is derived from the collection of rates. There are six Friendly Societies with a total membership of about 2,700 which provide for sickness benefit or burial or both ; they are controlled by regulations under statute.

There is a Government Savings Bank with 495 depositors at 31st December, 1949, holding a total of £77,209. By December, 1950, total holdings had increased to £108,211. There are no commercial banking facilities in the Colony and the Savings Bank is therefore used to a certain extent for this purpose by local traders.

Political Structure

The Government is administered by a Governor aided by Executive and Advisory Councils. The Governor alone makes Ordinances, there being no Legislative Council but power is reserved to His Majesty in Council to legislate by Order-in-Council. The Executive Council consists of the Government Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer as *ex-officio* members and such other official members as may be approved. The Advisory Council consists of six persons, not holding any office under the Crown, appointed by the Governor.

The Government is represented in Ascension by the Manager of Cable and Wireless, Limited, who is appointed Resident Magistrate for the purpose and is aided by a local Justice of the Peace. Tristan da Cunha is in the charge of an Administrator appointed by the Governor, although for practical purposes he communicates direct with the Colonial Office.

The local Municipal authority is the Poor Relief Board created under the provisions of the Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 4 of 1940) with powers to impose and collect rates. It is responsible for the maintenance of the Poor House and the Mental Asylum and for the outdoor relief of the poor and distressed. It also carries out other duties in connection with the control of the Public Market and slaughter house and street lighting.

The principal departments of the administration are the Secretariat ; Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine ; Agriculture and Forestry ; Education ; Medical, and Public Works Departments.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

There is at present no Companies Registration legislation but English law is applicable in the Colony in certain circumstances. Trade licensing is controlled by Ordinance No. 13 of 1939 and Liquor Licensing by Ordinance No. 1 of 1937. Other taxes are :—

Import Tax at 10s. per £100 value of goods imported into St. Helena.

Entertainment Tax on tickets for any public entertainment on a scale of 1d. on admission price not exceeding 1s., 2d. on tickets over 1s. and not exceeding 2s. and 3d. on any ticket costing more than 2s.

Export Tax on flax fibre at £1 10s. per ton exported, and on tow at 10s. per ton.

	Annual or Quarterly payments	
Licence for Motor Vehicles	*Annual*	*Quarterly*
(*a*) Private Motor Cars ..	40/-	12/-
(*b*) Private Motor Lorries ..	50/-	15/-
(*c*) Public Service Vehicles—		
of 20 H.P. or under ..	50/-	15/-
over 20 H.P.	60/-	18/-
(*d*) Motor Cycles	20/-	6/-
(*e*) Motor Tractors	60/-	18/-
Trailer Licence	20/-	6/-
Driver's Licence—		
(*a*) To drive a Motor Cycle ..	6/-	2/-
(*b*) To drive any other Motor Vehicle	10/-	3/-

Import and Export licences are required as follows :—

Imports. Licence required for all imports from any country or place in which the currency is not based on sterling. A licence is required for imports from any part of the British Empire in which the currency is based on sterling for the following :— Foodstuffs and animal stock feed of all kinds. Other items as scheduled in St. Helena Statutory Rules and Orders No. 24 of 1945 which covers nearly everything.

Exports. Control by licence is on every kind of food whether human or animal and whether imported or locally produced, and on all other imported articles (Statutory Rules and Orders No. 19 of 1945 applies).

Digitized by Google

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

Commodity	*Rate or Unit*	*Preferential*	*General*
Clothing—			
(i) Ready to wear outer clothing (except jerseys, cardigans and other knitted garments) made from :—			
(*a*) Wool or mixture of wool and cotton ..	*ad valorem*	Free	2½%
(*b*) Cotton	*ad valorem*	10%	12%
(*c*) Any other material	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
(*d*) Jerseys, cardigans, pullovers and other knitted outer garments	*ad valorem*	10%	12½%
(ii) Ready to wear underclothing—			
(*a*) Machine made or woven in wool cotton or a mixture of both..	*ad valorem*	Free	12½%
(*b*) Hand knitted in wool, cotton or mixture of both	*ad valorem*	10%	12½%
(*c*) Any other material	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
(iii) Footwear—			
(*a*) Heavy out-door boots and shoes and all children's shoes..	*ad valorem*	Free	2½%
(*b*) Others	*ad valorem*	10%	12½%
(iv) Haberdashery and millinery	*ad valorem*	15%	20%
(v) Hosiery made from—			
(*a*) Cotton, wool and mixtures	*ad valorem*	Free	2½%
(*b*) Silk and art. silk	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
Jewellery	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
Linen, Manufactured	*ad valorem*	20%	25%
Silk and art. silk	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
Perfumery—			
(*a*) Toilet preparations and perfumed spirits ..	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
(*b*) Dentifrices	*ad valorem*	Free	5%
Soap—			
(*a*) Common	per 100 lbs.	2s. 1d.	2s. 6d.
(*b*) Toilet	*ad valorem*	15%	20%
Provisions—			
Butter and cheese	per 100 lbs.	4s. 2d.	5s. 0d.
Canned meat	per 100 lbs.	6s. 3d.	7s. 6d.
Canned fish	*ad valorem*	15%	20%
Canned fruit	per 100 lbs.	9s. 4d.	10s. 0d.
Jams	per 100 lbs.	6s. 3d.	9s. 4d.
Provisions not enumerated elsewhere	*ad valorem*	10%	12½%
Firearms—			
(*a*) Pistols and revolvers	each	15s. 0d.	18s. 0d.
(*b*) Others	each	£1 10s. 0d.	£1 17s. 6d.
(*c*) Parts and accessories	*ad valorem*	22½%	30%
(*d*) Ammunition	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
Metal manufactures—			
Clocks, watches, and parts thereof	*ad valorem*	30%	32½%
Gramophones and Phonographs, including loud speakers and accessories	*ad valorem*	30%	32½%
Wireless instruments, apparatus and accessories ..	*ad valorem*	15%	20%
Motor cars	per 100 lbs.	12s. 6d.	13s. 9d.
Lorries and Tractors	per 100 lbs.	10s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Machinery and parts	*ad valorem*	Free	5%
Musical instruments	*ad valorem*	30%	32½%
Plate and plated ware	*ad valorem*	30%	35%
Spirits—			
(*a*) Brandy, Gin, Rum and Whisky—			
(i) Not exceeding the strength of proof ..	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(ii) Exceeding the strength of proof	per proof gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
(*b*) Cordials and Liqueurs, all kinds, including bitters and flavouring extracts containing spirits..	per gallon	£4 2s. 6d.	£4 10s. 0d.
Wine—			
(*a*) Sparkling	per gallon	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(*b*) Still—In bottles and in wood	per gallon	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 6s. 3d.
Tobacco—			
(*a*) Cigars and Cheroots	per lb.	£1 5s. 0d.	£1 7s. 0d.
(*b*) Cigarettes	per lb.	12s. 0d.	16s. 0d.
(*c*) Other manufactured tobacco—			
(i) Manufactured in the Empire entirely from Empire-grown tobacco	per lb.	10s. 0d.	—
(ii) Manufactured in the Empire partly from Foreign-grown tobacco	per lb.	12s. 0d.	—
Fuel Oils—			
Motor Spirit	per gallon	4d.	6d.
Illuminating Oil	per gallon	2d.	2½d.

Digitized by Google

(iii) *Land Tenure.* The laws governing the tenure of land are those in force in England. There are the following types of tenure: Freehold; permanent tenure of Crown lands subject to quit rent; and Crown lands.

The land in the Island is held by the Crown with the exception of approximately 7,450 acres held privately under the first two forms of tenure and used for growing flax or as pasturage.

(iv) *Immigration.* There are no immigration restrictions.

Communications and Transport

There is no internal postal service, but there is a telephone service operated by Government. There is no public transport system. There is a road system of 65 miles of all-weather roads. There are no rivers. External travel is by Union Castle steamers, which call from North and South approximately at monthly intervals and carry mails. Cable and Wireless Limited maintain a cable service with the rest of the world.

In 1948 there were 45 commercial vehicle licences issued, and 76 private.

There is no railway. There is one harbour at Jamestown and no harbour dues.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural conditions and methods

The land resources of the Island are limited. Owing to the large area (3,500 acres) under flax (*Phormium tenax*) and the necessity of maintaining a large number of cattle, sheep and donkeys, there is not sufficient land for all requirements of agriculture. Quantities of common and sweet potatoes and of other vegetables are produced, and small amounts of fruit. Production is almost entirely by smallholders. The land is impoverished as no method of rotation is employed and no fertilizers used. No chemical fertilizers are available, and the only natural ones are guano (in limited quantities and expensive) and animal manure, which is rarely collected. The Government has now one small holding being run experimentally by a family under control conditions in order to obtain accurate information as to the economics of such a unit. At the same time Government is commencing a dairy farm with imported pedigree Ayrshire stock with the intention of improving local strains for milk and beef production and currently demonstrating proper methods of agriculture and animal feeding. All animals will be stall fed as opposed to the local ranching methods. Owing to the steep nature of the land, ploughs are not usable in many places. One local farming concern uses horses and ploughs, whilst Government uses a tractor. The annual livestock census taken at the end of 1950 showed livestock population as follows:—

Livestock Census, 1950

Cattle	*Horses*	*Donkeys*	*Sheep*
870	41	1,260	2,357
Goats	*Pigs*	*Poultry*	
2,140	221	7,064	

There is little animal disease in the Island, and no tuberculosis has yet been recorded in cattle. There are occasional cases of anthrax (two in 1948).

Local Food Products

Local production figures for 1950 were as follows:—

	Acreage	*Yield tons*	*Estimated Production tons*
Common Potatoes ..	140	3-4	500
Sweet Potatoes ..	60	1-1½	75
Mixed Vegetables ..	50	1	50

Sales of meat from local slaughterings in 1950 were as follows:—

Beef	65,799 lb.
Mutton	20,353 lb.
Pork	6,030 lb.

The larger animal owners are being encouraged to slaughter more animals, thus increasing the amount of meat for sale and at the same time reducing overstocking. With the exception of the production of Phormium hemp and some lily bulbs for export the whole agricultural land of the Island is given over to food production for local consumption.

Cash Crops

The chief export of the Colony is the fibre of *phormium tenax* or New Zealand flax. Exports for the years 1944 to 1950 are given below (all in tons):—

Exports of New Zealand Hemp

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Hemp ..	909	956	704	784	940	1,243	1,200
Tow ..	324	357	332	393	377	537	643
Rope and Twine..	33	36	66	60	40	34	36
Matting ..	—	—	3¼	2¼	1½	—	—

The value of flax products exported in 1947, 1948 and 1949 were approximately £47,000, £73,000 and £106,542 respectively.

There is one factory for the manufacture of rope and twine, and matting is produced from a home-made loom. There is scope for expansion in this direction. The production of flax is almost entirely in the hands of three firms, who also own most of the leaf growing areas and operate all the mills. After the examination in 1948 of the industry by an expert from New Zealand the Government legislated for the rehabilitation of the mills in particular and the industry in general; funds being provided by the exporters based on contributions at the rate of £11 5s. per ton exported.

The work of rebuilding the mills and replacing worn-out equipment commenced in January, 1949, and was completed in 1950.

The only other export cash crop is the bulb of *Lilium longiflorum* to England. Four thousand eight hundred and sixty-four of these were exported in 1949, the growers (all small) receiving a total of £172 after deduction of all expenses. Exports before the war had reached over 10,000, but production ceased during the war. In 1950 no bulbs were exported owing to the prevalence of disease.

Forestry

The forest resources of the Colony have been seriously depleted in the past, and considerable re-afforestation has been undertaken by Government since 1938. There are now some 575 acres of forest lands. All areas newly planted have to be protected from rabbits and sheep. It is estimated that 620 tons of timber were felled during 1950 for fuel, of which there is no alternative supply.

Fisheries

The Tristan da Cunha Development Company Ltd. was formed in 1948 by a syndicate representing companies in the South African crawfish industry. A cannery has been established in Tristan and frozen crawfish tails and canned crawfish are being exported to the American market. In July 1950 the Colonial Development Corporation was invited, and agreed to participate in the scheme.

During 1950, 118,497 lb. of frozen tails were exported valued at £13,540. A new motor vessel of larger capacity than that used hitherto is being obtained and, together with the cannery which was completed too late in 1950 to handle any of the season's catch, should lead to a substantial increase in the value of crawfish exports in future.

Manufactures

The only manufactures of commercial importance are hemp, tow and their products rope, twine and matting. Thirty tons of unbatched rope and twine were exported to South Africa during 1949 and about 3 tons of twine used locally for the manufacture of matting and sacks for coal and vegetables.

Digitized by Google

Village Industries

Pillow lace is made in small quantities also embroidery work, and sold through the St. Helena Handicrafts Association or through hawkers on board ships. Small quantities of aloe bead work are also made and sold by hawkers to tourists.

One cabinet maker manufactures tables, cigarette boxes, book ends, etc., for sale through the Association, and also in conjunction with Government, manufactured 150 folding tables to contract for the Union Castle Company in 1949. Timber used has to be imported.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist trade. About 24 passenger vessels call yearly and the estimated expenditure per passenger averages £1 on taxi hire and local purchases. The local amenities are poor in the matter of obtaining meals and there is only one small hotel in Jamestown with little to attract tourists from South Africa to come and stay for an intership holiday, although up-country there is fine scenery, good walking and (except in winter) fine weather. There is no doubt an opening for improved facilities for tourists if a small start were made. A golf course has recently been reopened at Longwood. It is understood that Old Longwood House where the Emperor Napoleon resided in captivity is shortly to be renovated by the French authorities.

Distributive trade. There are two large wholesale importers and 28 retail traders, many of whom import direct in small quantities from the United Kingdom and South Africa. Government Supplies Department imports all subsidized food stuffs and other items in quota export from the countries of origin.

Professions. The following professional personnel hold office under the Crown : 2 Medical Officers, 1 Dentist, 2 Nurses, 2 Agricultural Officers and 2 Education Officers. There are resident in the Colony two retired Doctors of Medicine who do not normally practice. There are no lawyers, architects or other qualified professional men or women.

Co-operative movement

The St. Helena Growers' Association, the only form of co-operative society in existence at present, has a turnover of over £1,400 annually, and deals with the sale of farm produce. The St. Helena Handicrafts Association is, however, suitable for conversion to co-operative principles and the matter is shortly to come under review.

Employment and Labour

Local employment. The supply of unskilled labour is in excess of requirements, but there is a shortage of skilled labour. During 1948 there was an average of 125 men in receipt of unemployment relief.

Daily rates of wages in 1949 were :—

Typical Wage Rates, 1949

	Male	*Female*
Flax workers (commercial) ..	5s. 1d.	3s. 10d.
Agricultural Workers—		
Government	5s. 1d.	—
Commercial and Private ..	4s. 0d.	3s. 6d.
General labourers—		
Government	5s. 1d.	—
Commercial and Private ..	4s. 0d.	3s. 6d.
Average for skilled labour ..	6s. 6d. to	7s. 0d.

Hours of work 48 per week.

Migrant labour. There is no labour recruitment. Emigration is voluntary and almost wholly confined to young women seeking domestic service in the United Kingdom or South Africa and young men seeking their fortunes abroad. Emigration and immigration figures during 1948 and 1949 are as follows :—

	Emigrants	*Immigrants*
1948	264	33
1949	428*	142

* Includes 100 men voluntarily engaged under Government auspices for agricultural work in the United Kingdom.

Income from emigrant labour cannot clearly be separated from payments received by stamp dealers. However, the cash payments made by Post Office and Treasury under various heads is shown below for two years and conveys some idea of return flow of income from this source.

	1947	1948
Post Office	£4,000	£8,500
Treasury	£3,289	£2,422
	£7,289	£10,922

The Agricultural labour scheme mentioned above produces an annual income return to relatives in the Colony of £6,000.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

The Colony is grant aided, the excess of expenditure over revenue being met from Imperial Government funds. Total figures of Revenue (including grants under the C.D. and W. acts), Grant-in-Aid, and Expenditure during the years 1938-1950 are as follows :—

Revenue and Expenditure 1929–1950

Year	*Revenue*	*Of Which Grant-in-Aid*	*Expenditure*
	£	£	£
1938 ..	26,911	Nil	29,930
1939 ..	15,096	Nil	33,364
1940 ..	33,720	13,000	33,365
1941 ..	42,100	17,000	37,415
1942 ..	48,745	18,000	48,568
1943 ..	70,558	37,000	70,774
1944 ..	83,941	15,000	74,491
1945 ..	63,715	Nil	84,052
1946 ..	98,594	25,000	88,823
1947 ..	60,669	Nil	100,965
1948 ..	126,813	30,000	99,626
1949 ..	121,650	40,000	117,185
1950* ..	88,708	30,000	94,681
1951† ..	103,373	48,728	107,256

* Revised Estimates.

† Draft Estimates.

Digitized by Google

The principal Heads of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1947 and 1948, the revised estimates for 1949 and draft estimates for 1951 are shown below :—

ANALYSIS OF REVENUE 1947–1951

	1947 £	1948 £	*Revised Estimates* 1949 £	*Draft Estimates* 1951 £
Customs	13,825	14,949	16,900	23,550
Port and Marine ..	1,748	1,881	1,950	1,950
Licences, Taxes, etc...	1,549	2,438	1,888	1,780
Fees of Court of Office and Reimbursements	1,785	2,315	1,590	2,270
Post Office	4,802	15,362	14,219	2,285
Revenue from Government Properties ..	2,174	2,612	2,225	1,950
Interest	377	93	300	200
Miscellaneous ..	5,518	2,011	2,370	1,015
Ascension Island ..	5,302	15,234	14,033	2,036
Sale of Land	—	—	—	5
Revenue from Goodstocks and Other Essential Supplies Revolving Fund ..	—	15,000	3,000	3,000
Colonial Development and Welfare ..	23,589	24,918	23,175	14,604
Grant-in-Aid	—	30,000	40,000	48,728
Total Revenue ..	60,669	126,813	121,650	103,373

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE 1947–1951

	1947 £	1948 £	*Revised Estimates* 1949 £	*Draft Estimates* 1951 £
Pensions	1,140	1,101	1,491	1,760
Governor	2,637	3,059	2,807	2,662
Secretariat and Printing Office	2,237	3,460	3,449	3,293
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine ..	1,792	2,299	3,202	3,292
Post Office	800	1,123	1,637	1,140
Public Health.. ..	7,585	7,214	9,464	9,057
Education	7,385	6,076	7,224	8,657
Agriculture and Forestry	11,170	5,128	5,032	6,436
Police and Gaol ..	2,054	1,448	1,616	2,220
Audit	—	1,815	959	1,193
Public Works Department	5,248	1,661	2,736	665
Public Works Recurrent	8,547	9,235	9,500	11,610
Contributions, Special Allowances and Miscellaneous	3,308	4,364	2,276	5,363
Poor Relief	4,784	3,948	4,420	4,100
Ascension Island ..	1,743	1,628	1,994	2,140
Total Ordinary Expenditure	60,430	53,559	57,807	63,588
Public Works Extraordinary	23,762	4,071	3,170	2,075
Emergency Expenditure*	16,773	15,315	33,033	26,989
Total Extraordinary Expenditure ..	40,535	19,386	36,203	29,064
Colonial Development and Welfare ..	—	26,681	23,175	14,604
Total Expenditure ..	100,965	99,626	117,185	107,256

* Mainly food subsidies and cost-of-living allowances.
There is no public debt.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets at 31st December, 1949

LIABILITIES

	£	s.	d.
Deposits :—			
Invested or partly Invested	104,281	7	6
Colonial Development and Welfare ..	9,743	5	9
Other Deposits	15,435	16	11
Foodstocks and other Essential Supplies Revolving Fund	10,038	5	6
Excess of Assets over Liabilities.. ..	9,856	14	3
	149,355	9	11

ASSETS

	£	s.	d.
Cash :—			
Local, Crown Agents and Ascension ..	11,035	5	11
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents ..	857	5	0
Investment of Available Balances	44,000	0	0
Investment of Deposits	87,889	2	3
Advances	5,573	16	9
	149,355	9	11

Taxation is mainly through import duties ; common articles of every-day use such as outer clothing, cotton stockings, heavy footwear, medicines, and dentifrices are free of duty, as also are machinery and building materials.

The nearest approach to municipal authority is the Poor Relief Board who are responsible for the levying and collection of poor rates and lighting rates and the maintenance of the Poor House, Mental Asylum, Public Market and street lighting. The Board receives a grant of £500 per annum from Government and collects approximately £1,000 per annum from rates, etc. There is no debt.

Currency and Banking

The Currency, Coinage and Legal Tender Ordinance, 1948, provides that coins of the United Kingdom and Bank of England notes are the legal currency of the Colony, but South African notes and coinage are also in circulation and are *de facto* currency. The amount of currency in circulation at the end of 1949 is estimated at £40,000. There is no commercial bank operating in the Colony ; the Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution. The aggregate of depositors' accounts during the last six years were as follows :—

Post Office Savings Bank Deposits 1944–50

Year	*Balances of Deposits at 31st December* £
1944	66,194
1945	67,264
1946	66,413
1947	67,120
1948	84,596
1949	77,209
1950	108,211

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1950, was about 500.

Digitized by Google

Private Investment

There are no companies registered in St. Helena though there are a number of commercial concerns operating. Details of capital assets of local firms are therefore not available. There are no building societies. No cases of bankruptcy have been recorded for many years.

Cost of Living

A cost of living index was compiled in 1948 and showed a rise of 66 points over 1939. In compiling the index, changes in the prices of the principal essential foodstuffs, soap, clothing, fuel and lighting were taken into account based on the average family budgets of three classes of Island workers, viz., the very poor, the labouring and the clerical classes. By the end of 1950 the index had risen to 190.

Balance of Trade

External trade, since 1937, exclusive of bullion and specie, is illustrated by the following table :—

BALANCE OF TRADE, 1935-1950

Year	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Import Surplus*
	£	£	£
1935	29,824	12,547	17,277
1936	32,836	17,866	14,970
1937	37,828	25,943	11,885
1938	37,613	6,781	30,832
1939	37,466	16,294	21,172
1940	50,932	29,672	21,260
1941	63,042	19,112	43,930
1942	76,684	31,432	45,252
1943	76,510	34,755	41,755
1944	97,085	31,790	65,295
1945	87,482	35,200	52,282
1946	94,375	31,790	62,585
1947	107,459	48,043	59,416
1948	118,204	73,260	44,944
1949	135,080	106,881	28,199
1950*	120,132	140,212	−20,080

* Provisional.

Imports consist chiefly of food, drink and tobacco and manufactures among which the most important are textiles, machinery, building materials, vehicles and motor spirit. The following table shows imports by value in the main groups for the years 1947 to 1949 :—

Value of Imports by Classes 1947–1949

Group	1947 £	1948 £	1949 £
Food, drink and tobacco ..	57,485	70,037	74,959
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	6,116	2,921	5,065
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	43,837	44,896	54,093
Miscellaneous	21	350	963
Total Imports	107,459	118,204	135,080

The principal exports are New Zealand fibre (phormium tenax) and its by-product, tow, which together with rope and twine form 97½% of total exports by value as will be noted from the following table which shows chief exports by volume and value since 1947 :—

Principal Exports 1947-1949

Item	1947 *tons*	1947 £	1948 *tons*	1948 £	1949 *tons*	1949 £
N.Z. fibre ..	784	33,725	940	55,833	1243	83,400
Tow	393	9,735	377	14,764	537	20,843
Rope and twine ..	60	3,178	40	2,249	30	2,071
Other articles ..	—	1,405	—	414	—	567
Total exports ..		48,043		73,260		106,881

Trade is mainly confined to the British Commonwealth. In the years 1947, 1948 and 1949, 85%, 80% and 86% respectively of imports were derived from Commonwealth sources whilst exports were directed almost entirely to Commonwealth countries, chiefly the United Kingdom and South Africa.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Activities

The Government's Development Plan in broad outline for the 10 years from 1946 to 1956 was divided into 10 main parts as follows :—

	£
1. Development of Agriculture and Forestry	50,000
2. Development of Local Industries other than (1)	10,000
3. Hospital, Asylum and Poor House ..	30,000
4. Training in Trades and Crafts ..	8,800
5. Housing	40,000
6. Education	24,700
7. Improvement of Water Supplies and Sanitation	18,000
8. Port and Road Improvements ..	6,000
9. Completion of existing schemes ..	2,500
10. Reserve	10,000
	£200,000

Agriculture and Forestry. Of these main schemes Agriculture and Forestry has been one of the chief and to the end of 1950, about £35,000 had been spent. In the four years 1946-49, nearly 100,000 tree seedlings were planted and maintained ; a dairy herd of Ayrshire heifers and one pedigree Ayrshire bull were imported from Scotland ; two Dairy Shorthorn bulls were imported in 1946 to improve local strains of cattle. A considerable acreage of waste land was brought under cultivation and many acres of Crown leased land were re-entered and are now under course of rehabilitation. One large black boar and some sows have been imported and numbers of Rhode Island Red, White Leghorn and Black Australorp poultry. There is also one Catalan donkey stallion whose services together with the services of the pedigree bulls are free to approved animals. Selective breeding is carried out at the Government Stock Centre.

A new Dairy Farm has been built at Longwood on Crown farm land and modern standard methods and machinery are in use. Large scale animal food production is being undertaken in connection with the Farm and to demonstrate modern methods to local farmers.

New strains of Phormium Tenax (New Zealand flax) have been established for trial at the Government Agricultural station. The Department of Agriculture continues to foster interest in the production of the bulbs of *Lilium longiflorum* for export. Bulbs of *Lilium speciosum rubrum* are also being developed but are not yet produced in sufficient quantities for export.

Housing. Since 1946, 85 cottages have been built under these schemes, and have considerably eased the overcrowding prevalent in many areas. The programme, however, has recently been slowed down owing to heavy building requirements of the education schemes providing for the erection of new schools. £27,000 has been spent from the Colonial Development and Welfare grants since 1946 ; a considerable part of this sum has been invested in machinery and capital plant which remains as an asset of the Colony.

Education. On educational buildings £23,000 has been spent since 1946, including the sum of £1,000 yearly on

Digitized by Google

the provision of milk and meals to school children ; this scheme, however, ended at the end of 1950 and for 1951 the necessary expenditure to continue the supply of milk or meals is being borne on the Colony's general estimates. £4,000 has been granted from Reserve to finance a scheme for the provision of two emergency trained teachers from the United Kingdom to supplement local staff and undertake the training of pupil teachers, and £3,000 for additional expenditure on school buildings.

Roads. By 1950 the provision of £5,000 for improvement of roads had been expended ; seven miles have been re-made and bitumen-surfaced.

Water. Improvements to water supplies since 1946 have involved the laying of main piping, improvements to catchment areas, and construction of filter beds ; expenditure has amounted to £6,780 to the end of 1950.

Medical. Detailed schemes for the Hospital, Poor House and Mental Asylum have been prepared, including the modernization of the Jamestown Hospital and the building of new accommodation for the destitute aged and for the mentally deficient. Expenditure under this head amounted to £732 by the end of 1950.

Local Industries. No expenditure has been made from the Development of Local Industries section yet as the best direction for this is still under consideration.

Total expenditure under grants from Colonial Development and Welfare from 1946 to the end of 1950 amounted to over £97,000.

(S24101) K 12 PS 9286/4502 1/52 K.H.K. Gp. 519

Digitized by Google

COLONIAL OFFICE

A Selection of Publications

THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES 1950-51

The record of a year's progress of Britain's dependent territories towards responsible self-government.

(Cmd. 8243) 4*s.* 6*d.* By post 4*s.* 9*d.*

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Report and Accounts for 1950 of the central body responsible for administering financial aid for commercial projects in the Colonial territories.

(H.C. 161) 2*s.* By post 2*s.* 2*d.*

COLONIAL RESEARCH 1950-51

REPORTS OF THE

Colonial Research Council.
Colonial Products Research Council.
Colonial Social Science Research Council.
Colonial Medical Research Committee.
Committee for Colonial Agricultural, Animal Health, and Forestry Research.
Colonial Insecticides Committee.
Colonial Economic Research Committee.
Tsetse Fly and Trypanosomiasis Research Committee.
Colonial Fisheries Advisory Committee.
Director Anti-Locust Research Centre.

(Cmd. 8303) 6*s.* 6*d.* By post 6*s.* 10*d.*

LABOUR ADMINISTRATION IN THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES 1944-50

A short review of the efforts and progress made towards the improvement of labour conditions in the Colonies.

(Colonial No. 275) 1*s.* 0*d.* By post 1*s.* 1½*d.*

Obtainable from

H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE

at the addresses on cover page 4 or through any bookseller

Digitized by Google

COLONIAL OFFICE

An Economic Survey of the Colonial Territories

1951

Volume IV

THE WEST INDIAN AND AMERICAN TERRITORIES

Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Windward Islands, with the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Falkland Islands

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1953

PRICE £2 0*s* 0*d* NET

Colonial No. 281-4

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Gt. Brit.

COLONIAL OFFICE

AN ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE COLONIAL TERRITORIES 1951

VOLUME IV
THE WEST INDIAN AND AMERICAN TERRITORIES

Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Windward Islands, with the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Falkland Islands

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1953

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	9
THE BAHAMA ISLANDS	11
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	11
Geographical Features	11
Population	11
Social Amenities	12
— *Education*	12
— *Health*	12
— *Housing*	12
— *Social Security*	12
Political Structure	12
— *Constitutional and Political Background*	12
— *Local Government*	13
Principal Economic Legislation	13
— *General*	13
— *Trade Tariffs*	13
— *Labour*	13
— *Land Tenure*	14
— *Immigration*	14
Transport and Communications	14
— *External Transport*	14
— *Internal Transport*	14
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	14
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	14
Local Food Products	15
Cash Crops	15
Forestry	15
Fisheries	15
Minerals	15
Manufactures	15
Village Industries	15
Other Economic Activities	15
— *Tourist Industry*	15
— *Distributive Trade*	15
— *Professions*	16
Co-operative Movement	16
Employment and Labour Supply	16
Fuel and Power (including Water)	16
— *Waterworks*	16
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	16
Public Finance	16
— *Central Government*	16
— *Local Government*	17
Currency and Banking	17
Private Investment	18
Cost of Living	18
Balance of Trade and Payments	18
IV. DEVELOPMENT	21
Government Development	21
Other Development	21
V. MISCELLANEOUS	21
BARBADOS	22
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	22
Geographical Features	22
Population	22
Social Amenities	24
— *Education*	24
— *Health*	25
— *Housing*	25
— *Social Security*	25

	Page
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND—*continued*	
Political Structure	26
— *Constitutional and Political Background*	26
— *Local Government*	26
Principal Economic Legislation	26
— *General*	26
— *Trade Tariffs*	26
— *Labour*	26
— *Land Tenure*	27
— *Immigration*	27
Transport and Communications	27
— *Internal*	27
— *External*	27
II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES	27
Agricultural Conditions and Methods	27
Local Food Products	29
Cash Crops	29
— *Sugar*	29
— *Cotton*	31
Forestry	31
Fisheries	32
Minerals	32
Manufactures	32
Village Industries	32
Other Economic Activities	32
— *Tourist Trade*	32
— *Distributive Trade*	32
— *Professions*	33
Co-operative Movement	33
Employment and Labour Supply	33
Fuel and Power and Water	34
III. FINANCE AND TRADE	34
Public Finance	34
— *Central Government*	34
— *Local Government*	36
Currency and Banking	37
Private Investment	37
National Income	38
Cost of Living	38
Balance of Trade	38
IV. DEVELOPMENT	41
Government Development	41
— *Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes*	41
BERMUDA	43
I. GENERAL BACKGROUND	43
Geographical Features	43
Population	43
Social Amenities	44
— *Education*	44
— *Health*	44
— *Housing*	44
— *Social Security*	44
Political Structure	44
Principal Economic Legislation	45
— *General*	45
— *Trade Tariffs*	45
— *Labour*	45
— *Land Tenure*	45
— *Immigration*	45

1418872

Digitized by Google

Page

BERMUDA—*continued*

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND—*continued*

Transport and Communications 46
— *Internal Transport* 46
— *External Transport* 46
— *Posts, Telephones, and Telegraphs* 46

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 46
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 46
Field and Tree Crops 47
Livestock 47
Forestry 48
Fisheries 48
Minerals 48
Manufactures 48
Tourism 48
Other Economic Activities 48
— *Distribution* 48
— *Professions* 48
Employment and Labour Supply 49
Fuel and Power (including Water) 49

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 49
Public Finance 49
— *Central Government* 49
— *Local Government* 50
Currency and Banking 50
Private Investment 51
Cost of Living 51
Balance of Trade and Payments 51

BRITISH GUIANA 56

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 56
Geographical Features 56
Population 56
Social Amenities 57
— *Education* 57
— *Health* 58
— *Housing* 58
— *Social Security* 59
Political Structure 59
Principal Economic Legislation 60
— *Trade Tariffs* 60
— *Labour* 60
— *Land Tenure* 62
— *Immigration* 63
Transport and Communications 63

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 64
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 64
Local Food Products 67
Cash Crops 67
Forestry 68
Fisheries 69
Minerals 69
Manufactures 70
Village Industries 71
Other Economic Activities 71
Co-operative Movement 71
Employment and Labour Supply 71
Fuel and Power (including Water) 73

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 73
Public Finance 73
— *Central Government* 73
— *Local Government* 75
Currency and Banking 76
Private Investment 76

Page

III—FINANCE AND TRADE—*continued*

National Income 77
Cost of Living 78
Balance of Trade and Payments 78

IV. DEVELOPMENT 81
Government Development 81
Other Development 83

BRITISH HONDURAS 84

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 84
Geographical Features 84
Population 84
Social Amenities 85
— *Education* 85
— *Health* 85
— *Housing* 85
— *Social Security* 85
Political Structure 86
Principal Economic Legislation 86
— *General* 86
— *Trade Tariffs* 86
— *Labour* 87
— *Land Tenure* 87
Transport and Communications 87
— *Internal Transport* 87
— *External Transport* 87
— *Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones* 88

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 88
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 88
Local Food Products 88
Cash Crops 89
Livestock 89
Forestry 90
Fisheries 91
Minerals 92
Manufactures 92
Village Industries 92
Co-operative Movement 92
Employment and Labour Supply 92
— *Local Employment* 92
— *Migrant Labour* 93
Fuel and Power 93

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 93
Public Finance 93
— *Central Government* 93
— *Local Government* 95
Currency and Banking 96
Private Investment 96
Cost of Living 97
Balance of Trade 97

IV. DEVELOPMENT 102
Government Development 102
Other Development 102

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS 104

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 104
Geographical Features 104
Population 104
Social Amenities 105
— *Education* 105
— *Health* 105
— *Housing* 105
— *Social Security* 105
Political Structure 105

Digitized by Google

Page

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS—*continued*

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND—*continued*

Principal Economic Legislation 106
— *General* 106
— *Trade Tariffs* 106
— *Labour* 106
— *Land Tenure* 106
— *Immigration* 106
Communications and Transport 106

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 106
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 106
Food Crops 106
Livestock 107
Fisheries, Whaling and Sealing 107
Manufacturing and Village Industries 107
Other Economic Activities 108
Employment and Labour Supply 108
Fuel, Power, and Water 108

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 108
Public Finance 108
— *Central Government* 108
— *Local Government* 110
Currency and Banking 110
Private Investment 110
Cost of Living 110
External Trade 110

IV. DEVELOPMENT 115
Government Development 115
Other Development 115

JAMAICA 116

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 116
Geographical Features 116
Population 116
Social Amenities 120
— *Education* 120
— *Health* 121
— *Housing* 121
— *Social Security* 122
Political Structure 123
Principal Economic Legislation 124
— *General* 124
— *Trade Tariffs* 124
— *Labour* 126
— *Land Tenure* 126
Transport and Communications 126
— *Roads* 126
— *Railways* 126
— *Shipping* 127
— *Telecommunications* 127

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 128
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 128
Local Food Products 129
Livestock 130
Cash Crops 130
— *Sugar* 131
— *Bananas* 132
— *Tobacco* 133
— *Cocoa* 133
— *Pimento* 133
— *Citrus* 133
— *Coffee* 134
— *Ginger* 134
Forestry 135

Page

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES—*continued*

Fisheries 135
Minerals 135
Manufactures 136
Village Industries 136
Other Economic Activities 136
— *Tourism* 136
— *Distributive Trade* 137
— *Professions* 137
Co-operative Movement 137
Employment and Labour Supply 138
— *Local Employment* 138
— *Migrant Labour* 140
Fuel and Power 140

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 141
Public Finance 141
— *Central Government* 141
— *Local Authorities* 144
Currency and Banking 145
Private Investment 146
National Income 147
Cost of Living 147
Balance of Trade and Payments 148

IV. DEVELOPMENT 152
Government Development 152
Other Development 153

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS (DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA) 154

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 154
Geographical Features 154
Population 154
Social Amenities 155
— *Education* 155
— *Health* 155
— *Housing* 155
— *Social Security* 155
Political Structure 155
Economic Legislation 156
— *General* 156
— *Trade Tariffs* 156
— *Labour* 156
— *Land Tenure* 156
Transport and Communications 156
— *Internal* 156
— *External* 157

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 157
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 157
Local Food Products 158
Cash Crops 158
Forestry 158
Fisheries 158
Minerals 159
Manufactures 159
Village Industries 159
Other Economic Activities 159
— *Tourist Industry* 159
— *Distributive Trade* 159
Co-operative Movement 160
Employment and Labour Supply 160
— *Local Employment* 160
— *Migrant Labour* 160
Power 160

Digitized by Google

Page

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS (DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)—*continued*

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 160
Public Finance 160
— *Central Government* 160
— *Local Government* 161
Currency and Banking 161
Private Investment 161
Cost of Living 161
Balance of Trade and Payments 161

IV. DEVELOPMENT 162
Government Development 162
Other Development 163

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS (DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA) 164

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 164
Geographical Features 164
Population 164
Social Amenities 165
— *Education* 165
— *Health* 165
— *Housing* 165
— *Social Security* 165
Political Structure 165
Economic Legislation 166
— *General* 166
— *Trade Tariffs* 166
— *Labour* 166
— *Land Tenure* 166
— *Immigration* 166
Transport and Communications 166

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 166
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 166
Local Food Products 167
Cash Crops 167
Forestry 167
Fisheries 167
Minerals 167
Village Industries 167
Other Industries 168
Co-operative Movement 168
Employment and Labour Supply 168
Fuel and Power 168

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 168
Public Finance 168
Currency and Banking 169
Private Investment 169
Cost of Living 169
Balance of Trade and Payments 169

IV. DEVELOPMENT 171

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS 172

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 172
Geographical Features 172
Population 172
Social Amenities 174
— *Education* 174
— *Health* 174
— *Housing* 174
— *Social Security* 174
Political Structure 175

Page

I—GENERAL BACKGROUND—*continued*

Principal Economic Legislation 175
— *General* 175
— *Trade Tariffs* 176
— *Labour* 176
— *Land and Minerals* 177
— *Immigration* 177
Transport and Communications 177

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 177
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 177
Local Food Products 180
Cash Crops 180
Forestry 182
Fisheries 182
Minerals 183
Manufactures 183
Other Economic Activities 183
Co-operative Movement 183
Employment and Labour Supply 183
Fuel and Power 184

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 185
Public Finance 185
Currency and Banking 191
Private Investment 191
National Income 191
Cost of Living 191
Balance of Trade and Payments 191

IV. DEVELOPMENT 193
Government Development 193
Other Development 194

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 195

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 195
Geographical Features 195
Population 195
Social Amenities 197
— *Education* 197
— *Health* 197
— *Housing* 198
— *Social Security* 198
Political Structure 198
Principal Economic Legislation 199
— *General* 199
— *Trade Tariffs* 199
— *Labour* 200
— *Land Tenure* 200
Transport and Communications 200
— *Internal* 200
— *External* 200

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 201
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 201
Local Food Products 201
Cash Crops 202
— *Sugar* 202
— *Cocoa* 203
— *Citrus* 203
— *Other Crops* 204
Forestry 204
Fisheries 204
Minerals 204
Manufactures 206
Village Industries 207

Digitized by Google

Page

TRINDAD AND TOBAGO—*continued*

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES—*continued*

Other Economic Activities 207
— *Tourist Industry* 207
— *Distributive Trade* 207
— *Professions* 207
Co-operative Movement 207
Employment and Labour Supply 208
Fuel and Power (including Water) 208
— *Electricity Supply* 208
— *Waterworks* 209

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 209
Public Finance 209
— *Central Government* 209
— *Local Government* 211
Currency and Banking 212
Private Investment 212
Cost of Living 212
Balance of Trade and Payments 213

IV. DEVELOPMENT 218
Government Development 218
Other Development 220

THE WINDWARD ISLANDS 221

DOMINICA 221

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 221
Geographical Features 221
Population 221
Social Amenities 222
— *Education* 222
— *Health* 222
— *Housing* 222
— *Social Security* 222
Political Structure 223
Principal Economic Legislation 223
— *General* 223
— *Trade Tariffs* 223
— *Labour* 223
— *Land Tenure* 224
— *Immigration* 224
Transport and Communications 224

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 225
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 225
Local Food Products 225
Cash Crops 225
Forestry 226
Fisheries 226
Minerals 226
Manufactures 226
Village Industries 227
Other Economic Activities 227
— *Tourist Industry* 227
— *Distributive Trade* 227
— *Professions* 227
Co-operative Movement 227
Employment and Labour Supply 227
— *Local Employment* 227
— *Migrant Labour* 228
Fuel and Power (including Water) 228

Page

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 228
Public Finance 228
— *Central Government* 228
— *Local Government* 229
Currency and Banking 229
Private Investment 232
National Income 232
Cost of Living 232
Balance of Trade and Payments 232

IV. DEVELOPMENT 232
Government Development 232
Other Development 233

GRENADA 234

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 234
Geographical Features 234
Population 234
Social Amenities 235
— *Education* 235
— *Health* 235
— *Housing* 235
— *Social Security* 235
Political Structure 236
Principal Economic Legislation 236
— *General* 236
— *Trade Tariffs* 236
— *Labour* 237
— *Land Tenure* 237
— *Immigration* 238
Transport and Communications 238

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 238
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 238
Local Food Products 238
Cash Crops 238
— *Cocoa* 239
— *Nutmegs* 239
— *Cotton* 239
Forestry 239
Fisheries 239
Minerals 240
Manufactures 240
Village Industries 240
Other Economic Activities 240
Co-operative Movement 240
Employment and Labour Supply 240
— *Local Employment* 240
— *Migrant Labour* 241
Fuel and Power 241

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 241
Public Finance 241
— *Central Government* 241
Currency and Banking 242
Private Investment 242
National Income 242
Cost of Living 243
Balance of Trade and Payments 243

IV. DEVELOPMENT 243
Government Development 243

Digitized by Google

Page

ST. LUCIA 246

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 246
Geographical Features 246
Population 246
Social Amenities 247
— *Education* 247
— *Health* 247
— *Housing* 247
— *Social Security* 247
Political Structure 247
Principal Economic Legislation 248
— *General* 248
— *Trade Tariffs* 248
— *Labour* 248
— *Land and Minerals* 249
— *Immigration* 249
Transport and Communications 249

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 249
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 249
Local Food Products 249
Cash Crops 250
Forestry 251
Fisheries 252
Minerals 252
Manufactures 252
Village Industries 252
Other Economic Activities 252
Co-operative Movement 252
Employment and Labour Supply 252
— *Local Employment* 252
— *Migrant Labour* 252
Fuel and Power 253

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 253
Public Finance 253
Currency and Banking 254
Private Investment 254
National Income 255
Cost of Living 255
Balance of Trade and Payments 255

IV. DEVELOPMENT 255
Government Development 255
Other Development 257

ST. VINCENT 258

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND 258
Geographical Features 258
Population 258
Social Amenities 259
— *Education* 259
— *Health* 259
— *Housing* 259
— *Social Security* 260
Political Structure 260

Page

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND—*continued*
Principal Economic Legislation 260
— *General* 260
— *Trade Tariffs* 260
— *Labour* 261
— *Land Tenure* 261
— *Immigration* 261
Transport and Communications 262

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES 262
Agricultural Conditions and Methods 262
Cash Crops 263
Local Food Products 264
Forestry 265
Fisheries 265
Minerals 265
Manufactures 266
Village Industries 266
Other Economic Activities 266
— *Tourist Industry* 266
— *Distributive Trade* 266
— *Professions* 266
Co-operative Movement 266
Employment and Labour Supply 266
— *Local Employment* 266
— *Migrant Labour* 266
Fuel and Power (including Water) 266

III. FINANCE AND TRADE 267
Public Finance 267
— *Central Government* 267
— *Local Government* 268
Currency and Banking 268
Private Investment 268
National Income 268
Cost of Living 268
Balance of Trade and Payments 268

IV. DEVELOPMENT 271
Government Development 271

V. MISCELLANEOUS 272

APPENDIX 273

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGREEMENTS 273
The Eastern Caribbean Unified Currency Scheme 273
Regional Organisations 273
Regional Marketing Agreements 273
— *Sugar* 273
— *Rice* 274
— *Fats and Oils* 274

MAPS
West Indies, with British Honduras and British Guiana .. .. Facing page 11
British Guiana .. .. .. „ „ 56
Jamaica .. .. „ „ 116
Trinidad and Tobago .. .. „ „ 195

Digitized by Google

PREFACE

Before the war the Colonial Office published, at approximately yearly intervals, a survey in which were assembled the main facts about the economic situation of the Colonial territories. The last of these, relating to the year 1937, was issued in 1940 (" An Economic Survey of the Colonial Empire (1937) "—Colonial No. 179), after which their publication was suspended. In the meantime there has been a very considerable increase both in popular interest in the affairs of the Colonial territories and in the emphasis laid on Colonial development. It is therefore felt to be appropriate that the ready source of statistical and other relevant information which the survey provided should once again be made available.

The new edition of the survey is being published, not in a single volume as before, but in a series of seven volumes, six of which contain memoranda describing the economic features of each of the Colonial territories in turn, grouped for convenience as follows :—

Volume I.—The Central African and High Commission territories (Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland).

Volume II.—The East African territories (Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar and the Somaliland Protectorate), with Aden, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Volume III.—The West African territories (Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia), with St. Helena.

Volume IV.—The West Indian and American territories (Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands, with the Bahamas, Bermuda and the Falkland Islands).

Volume V.—The Far Eastern territories (the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei).

Volume VI.—The Mediterranean and Pacific territories (Cyprus, Gibraltar, Fiji, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and the New Hebrides). This volume also includes a chapter on the economic situation of Malta.

An endeavour has been made to prepare the memoranda, of which the above volumes are composed, on uniform lines, so that the same essential facts may be given for each Colonial territory. The main headings under which the information in each is classified are as follows :—

(1) **General Background**

Geographical and climatic features ; population ; social amenities ; political structure ; principal economic legislation ; communications and transport.

(2) **Productive Activities**

Agricultural conditions and methods ; local food products ; cash crops ; forestry ; fisheries ; minerals ; manufactures ; village industries ; other industries ; co-operative movements ; employment and labour supply ; fuel and power (including water).

(3) **Finance and Trade**

Public finance ; currency and banking ; private investment ; national income ; standard and cost of living ; balance of trade.

(4) **Development**

Government activities and plans ; other development proceeding or planned.

(5) **Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous information not covered by the preceding headings.

Volume VII contains a series of memoranda dealing in greater detail than elsewhere with the commodities produced in the Colonial territories as a whole, both those which are intended for export and those which are retained for domestic consumption, together with certain other general and statistical information.

The component volumes of the survey are not being published simultaneously or necessarily in the order indicated above, but as and when the material for each is ready for presentation.

In each case the volume will contain information covering the period from 1938 up to the latest year for which it is available. The present volume includes, so far as practicable, information available at the end of 1951.

While every care has been taken in compiling the Survey, the Secretary of State cannot be responsible for the accuracy of any of the individual facts and figures in its contents, many of which are derived from sources outside the Colonial Office.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

WEST INDIES
WITH
BRIT. HONDURAS & BRIT. GUIANA

SCALE
MILES 0 100 200 300 400 500 MILES

90°W 80°W 70°W 60°W
25°N 20°N 15°N 10°N 5°N 0°

UNITED STATES
Miami
Key West
GULF OF MEXICO
Gt BAHAMA I.
GREAT ABACO I.
Nassau
NEW PROVIDENCE
ELEUTHERA I.
CAT I.
ANDROS I.
WATLINGS I.
Gt EXUMA
LONG I.
CROOKED I.
ACKLINS I.
MAYAGUANA I.
PROVIDENCE I.
GRAND CAICOS
TURKS I
Gt INAGUA I.
BAHAMA (British) ISLANDS
Havana
CUBA
CAYO ROMANO
PINOS I.
Camaguey
Holguin
Santiago de Cuba
GREAT ANTILLES
WINDWARD PASSAGE
TORTUE I.
HISPANIOLA
HAITI REP.
SANTO DOMINGO (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)
GONAVE I.
Port-au-Prince
Ciudad Trujillo
GRAND CAYMAN (Br.)
JAMAICA (Br.)
Kingston
Mona Passage
San Juan
PUERTO RICO (U.S.A.)
VIRGIN Is (Br.)
VIEQUES OR CRAB I. (U.S.A.)
SANTA CRUZ (U.S.A.)
LEEWARD ISLANDS
ST MARTIN (Fr. & Neth.)
ANGUILLA (Br.)
BARBUDA (Br.)
ST CHRISTOPHER (Br.)
NEVIS (Br.)
ANTIGUA (Br.)
MONTSERRAT (Br.)
GUADELOUPE (Fr.)
MARIE GALANTE (Fr.)
DOMINICA (Br.)
MARTINIQUE (Fr.)
ST LUCIA (Br.)
Castries
ST VINCENT (Br.)
BARBADOS (Br.)
WINDWARD ISLANDS
GRENADA (Br.)
TOBAGO (Br.)
TRINIDAD (Br.)
Port of Spain
G. of Paria
Maturin
LESSER ANTILLES
ARUBA (Neth.)
BONAIRE (Neth.)
CURACAO (Neth.)
Coro
MARGARITA
Caracas
Cartagena
Maracaibo
L. Maracaibo
Mompos
R. Orinoco
VENEZUELA
Georgetown
BRITISH GUIANA
Merida
MEXICO
Belize
BRITISH HONDURAS
GUATEMALA
TURNEFFE I.
BAY Is
HONDURAS
Tegucigalpa
SALVADOR
Salvador
NICARAGUA
Managua
Bluefields
COSTA RICA
San José
CANAL ZONE
Colon
PANAMA
Panama
Gulf of Panama
PACIFIC OCEAN
Bogotá
COLOMBIA
Valledel
CARIBBEAN SEA

Crown Copyright Reserved (facing Page 11)

Digitized by Google

VOLUME IV. THE WEST INDIAN AND AMERICAN TERRITORIES

THE BAHAMA ISLANDS

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Bahamas are an archipelago of islands, cays and reefs, lying between 20° 50′ and 27° 25′ north latitude and 72° 37′ and 80° 32′ west longitude, and extending over 760 miles from Grand Bahama in the north to Inagua in the south. Their total land area is about 4,400 square miles, approximately the same as that of Jamaica. The Biminis, the most westerly group, are less than fifty miles from Miami in Florida, and the most southerly island—Inagua—is about the same distance from Cuba.

Altogether there are nearly 700 islands and more than 2,000 cays and rocks in the group. The most important, though not the largest, island is New Providence on which is situated the capital, Nassau. All the other islands are known collectively as the Out Islands. The principal Out Islands are Abaco, Grand Bahama, the Biminis, Berry Islands, Andros, Eleuthera, Harbour Island, St. George's Cay (Spanish Wells), Cat Island, Exuma, Long Island, Ragged Island, Rum Cay, San Salvador (or Watlings Island), Long Cay (or Fortune Island), Crooked Island, Acklins, Mayaguana and Inagua.

During the winter months, December to April, the average temperature is 70° F. Summer temperatures vary from 80° to 90° F. The lowest recorded temperature is 51°—so that frost is unknown—and the highest 94°. Humidity is high during the summer months.

Most of the rainfall occurs between May and October; it varies between 40 and 60 inches in the different islands. During the months of August to October hurricanes are liable to strike the Islands.

The Bahamas are low and flat; the greatest elevation, found on Cat Island, is only 400 feet. There are no rivers or mountains, though there are a number of brackish lakes. The area of cultivable soil is not large; coral sands, which are suitable for agriculture, are found mainly on the windward or north-east coasts of the islands, and there are comparatively rich pockets of black, stony, and red loams which intersperse the limestone of which the Bahamas are mainly formed. The vegetation is similar to that of other tropical and sub-tropical districts; in some of the islands there are considerable forest areas, containing both pines and hardwoods. Wild life is scarce and there are no poisonous reptiles.

Fish abound in the waters of the Colony, and the Biminis, which are a centre for sports fishing, are visited by numbers of fishing enthusiasts from the United States.

Population

The estimated total population of the Colony in 1949 was 78,275 (37,006 males and 41,269 females). Nearly half this total population is concentrated in New Providence, the figure for the City of Nassau being approximately 34,000. The most recent census was held in 1943; at that time the total population was 68,846 (32,124 males and 36,722 females) and the racial distribution was as follows :—

African	57,346
European	7,923
Mixed	3,214
Others	296
Not stated	67
Total	68,846

The population of the various islands at the time of the 1943 census was as follows :—

	Population
Abaco and Cays	3,461
Andros Island	6,718
Berry Islands	403
Biminis	718
Cat Island	3,870
Cay Lobos	7
Eleuthera	6,430
Exuma and Cays	3,784
Grand Bahama	2,333
Harbour Island	769
Inagua	890
Long Cay	101
Long Island	4,564
Mayaguana	591
New Providence	29,391
Ragged Island and Cays	417
Rum Cay	219
San Salvador (or Watlings Island)	693
Spanish Wells	665

The following table shows the numbers in various age groups at the time of the 1943 census :—

POPULATION—AGE GROUPS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Under 5 years	4,944	4,859	9,803
5 to 15 years	8,138	8,141	16,279
15 to 45 years	13,984	17,045	31,026
45 to 65 years	3,623	4,809	8,432
Over 65 years	1,298	1,746	3,044
Not stated	137	122	259
Total	32,124	36,722	68,846

Birth, death and infant mortality rates have been as follows in recent years :—

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Births	*Deaths*	*Infant mortality*
	(rates per thousand of population)		(per thousand live births)
1946	31·7	15·2	94·6
1947	33·6	13·1	91·5
1948	35·0	15·3	109·5
1949	35·5	15·1	73·6
1950	38·7	18·6	113·7
1951	41·6	15·8	89·0

The population has been increasing in recent years at approximately 2·1 per cent. per annum.

The prosperity of the tourist industry has from time to time attracted numbers of people from the Out Islands to New Providence, and since 1942 there has been a considerable recruitment of agricultural workers for employment in the United States of America, particularly Florida and Minnesota. Otherwise there are no pronounced migratory movements.

Digitized by Google

The following table shows the number of persons in the principal occupations, as given in the 1943 census :—

Occupations	
Business or trade (employees)	7,783
Business or trade (employers or on own account)	1,199
Farmers and planters	7,559
Domestic servants	6,277
Agricultural labourers	6,139
General labourers	1,915
Fishermen and seamen	1,746
Officials	891
Professional workers	722
Mechanics	531

Social Amenities

Education

Primary education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 14.

In 1949 there were 89 schools maintained by the Board of Education and 35 grant-aided schools, providing accommodation for 13,356 children ; the average attendance was approximately 88 per cent. These were staffed by 89 Head Teachers, 34 Grant in Aid Teachers, 112 Assistant Teachers, 7 Sewing Teachers, 71 Pupil Teachers and 244 Monitors. Pupil Teachers and Monitors are between 14 and 18 years of age. Elementary Agriculture is taught in most of the schools. Some children in the Senior Schools obtain the Cambridge Junior Certificate in Technical Subjects. Sewing, Cooking and Housecrafts are taught to all girls in the Senior Schools while instruction in Woodwork and Technical Drawing is given to the boys attending the Senior Schools. It is expected to open soon a General Science Laboratory. There were as well 56 denominational and private primary schools, which are subject to inspection by the Department, which were attended by 3,925 children.

There are two private secondary schools (with 335 pupils on the roll in the Secondary Department in 1949) which qualify for Government assistance under the Secondary Education Act and three (with 76 pupils on the roll) which do not so qualify. A Government High School (129 pupils on the roll) is the only school conducted under the Secondary Schools Act ; fees of £10 10s. 0d. per annum are charged for pupils attending this school, and eight scholarships providing maintenance grants of £90 per annum are available, four for children from New Providence and four for the Out Islands. Secondary education is under the control of the Governor-in-Council, not the Board of Education.

The Secondary Schools present candidates for the Junior and Senior Examinations conducted by the Cambridge Examinations Syndicate. There are altogether about 240 boys and about 260 girls receiving secondary education. A Teachers' Training College with accommodation for 30 trainees was opened at the beginning of 1950.

The number of adults who could neither read nor write was 13,425 at the time of the 1931 census and 12,894 at the time of the 1943 census, equivalent to 26·3 per cent. and 21·8 per cent. of the adult population respectively.

A Technical College was opened at Nassau at the end of 1949, and has 48 pupils (all boys). There is no system of apprenticeship, but some Government Departments (Agriculture, Health, Telecommunications, Electricity, Public Works) give boys a training in the work of the Department concerned ; the Telecommunications Department have classes for junior employees, who take the external examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

In 1949 there were 28 students attending Universities or Colleges in the United Kingdom. There were, in addition, 13 students from the Bahamas in Universities and Colleges in Canada and 31 in other countries.

There are 22 graduates and nine uncertified teachers of experience employed in the Secondary Schools of the Colony. The Board of Education employs in its schools two graduates, four certified teachers, 212 teachers of experience, 88 subordinate teachers in training and 251 monitors.

Health

The principal ailments are tuberculosis, venereal disease and malnutrition, all of which are of fairly frequent occurrence, though no precise statistics of their incidence are available. Inspections of school-children in recent years have shown under-nourishment in 20 to 30 per cent. of the children examined ; lack of Vitamin B complex is the most usual deficiency. Milk distribution, which is subsidised by the Bahamas Red Cross and operates in 16 schools in Nassau and 41 schools in the Out Islands, may be reducing malnutrition to some extent. The existing arrangements for the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease do not appear to be sufficient to do more than hold these diseases in check, and tuberculosis may be increasing. Epidemic diseases are not of particularly frequent occurrence ; malaria is not found and typhoid is comparatively rare. There are a few cases of leprosy.

There are two main hospitals in Nassau, the Prospect Hospital and the Bahamas General Hospital, which together contain about 350 beds, and two subsidiary small hospitals in Rock Sound, Eleuthera, and Matthew Town, Inagua. Clinics have been established in many of the Out Islands, where there are four District Medical Officers and 10 Government Nurses. In 1950 it was decided to spend £300,000 on a new General Hospital in Nassau and £40,000 on a new out-patient Department.

Housing

In New Providence housing construction for wealthy and temporary residents is of a superior type and its accommodation is American in character. The architecture may be " Georgian " or " Bermudan " ; modern or Spanish styles are not encouraged or favoured locally.

Middle-class houses usually have two or three bedrooms and are in grounds about 100 feet by 100 feet ; they are very well equipped and are substantially built of concrete block construction. Their architecture may vary considerably but it basically reflects the original " Georgian " styles of 100 years ago. The better type of working-class housing is similar to this, but smaller and not so well equipped ; there is also a certain amount of timber construction. In Nassau, however, a considerable proportion of the working-class population is living in overcrowded conditions in bad slum areas ; in these older areas the houses are mainly of timber construction, and are in a dilapidated state.

Housing conditions in the Out Islands are on the whole good and there are few slums or congested areas. Houses are of both timber and stone construction, and are generally kept in good condition.

All house-building is undertaken privately, usually from savings assisted by mortgages. The building of the cheaper houses often extends over a period of 12 to 18 months, payments for building materials being deferred.

There is no colony-wide Town Planning organization, but the Board of Public Works exercises control over the construction, location, architecture and planning of all buildings in certain zones in New Providence.

Social Security

There is no public provision for unemployment and no old age pension scheme. There are 38 Friendly Societies and a Post Office Savings Bank.

Political Structure

Constitutional and Political Background

The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England in early days, the Governor representing the

Digitized by Google

Sovereign, and the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

"The Eleutherian Adventurers", who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them a conception of representative government already established in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council and an elected Senate. The Charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists today, was finally settled in 1729, when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor, appointed by the Crown, who has the power of veto, and is advised by an Executive Council; various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor-in-Council.

The Legislative Council, consisting of nine members nominated by the Crown, was created as a separate Council by Royal Letters Patent in 1841.

The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members for 15 districts. The qualification for members is possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. A member must also be a male British subject who has attained the age of 21 years and have been ordinarily resident in the Colony for the preceding three years. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, the 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is ownership of land to the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of annual rental of £2 8s. in New Providence, or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have no votes. The normal life of the House is seven years, but it may be dissolved at any time by the Governor, as occurred in June, 1928, and in May, 1935.

Local Government

There are no Local or Municipal Authorities. The system of local administration is by Public Boards, appointed by the Governor annually and composed of representatives of the House of Assembly and of leading citizens or others qualified specially for the Board's functions. Local Boards to administer works and health exist in the Out Islands.

The principal Departments of the Administration are the Secretariat, Treasury, Agricultural and Marine Products, Audit, Civil Aviation, Customs, Electrical, Exchange Control, Labour, Out Island, Port and Marine, Post Office, Public Works, Supplies Control, Telecommunications, Education, Registrar-General's, Immigration, Judicial, Legal, Medical, Prison, and Crown Lands.

Principal Economic Legislation

(i) *General*

The Companies Act (Chapter 83 of the Revised Laws, 1929), which provides for the incorporation, regulation and winding up of trading companies and other associations, is based on the United Kingdom Act of 1863. The Removal of Defunct Companies Act (Chapter 84), as its name implies, gives authority to remove defunct companies from the Register in certain circumstances, and the Foreign Companies Act (Chapter 85) extends the provisions of the Companies Act to companies incorporated outside the Colony on the fulfilment of certain conditions.

The Manufactories Act (Chapter 227) exempts from the payment of Customs duties machinery and tools imported for factories engaged in manufacturing, preserving or packing agricultural or marine produce, and building materials for the erection of such factories. Under the Industries Encouragement Ordinance of 1951, the Governor-in-Council may grant registration to factories producing primarily for export, if satisfied that their establishment is in the public interest. Machinery to be used in establishing them may then be imported free of duty, and customs duties, emergency tax, and other duties paid on imported raw materials are to be refunded when the goods in the manufacture of which they are used are exported. No taxes are to be levied on the earnings of such factories for a period of 10 years following their registration.

The Shop Licences Ordinance of 1933 provides for the licensing of shops.

(ii) *Trade Tariffs*

Most goods are subject to *ad valorem* duties of 20 per cent. in the general tariff, and 10 per cent. if they are from Commonwealth sources; there is also an emergency tax of 5 per cent. on goods from both foreign and Commonwealth sources, but this is not levied on the principal foodstuffs, coal, lumber, gasoline or kerosene, beer, ale and stout, wines and liqueurs. Flour, rice, tinned milk, brown sugar, salt beef, salt pork and raw coffee are admitted duty free from Commonwealth sources; there are moderate specific duties on other staple foodstuffs, including vegetables and fruit, though higher duties are levied on the latter when they are competitive with home-produced supplies. There are fairly heavy specific duties on spirits and tobacco. Coal, fertilisers and manures, agricultural, marine, and printing machinery, wire fencing, kerosene and certain other commodities are exempt from duty. Petrol and oils (other than kerosene) are subject to moderate specific duties, plus a sales tax in the case of petrol. Export duties are negligible.

The granting of import and export licences is under the control of the Director of Supplies. Import licences are required for all goods from sources other than the British Commonwealth, and for goods from the British Commonwealth which are in short supply; other goods can be imported without a licence.

(iii) *Labour*

There are no labour exchanges in the Bahamas, and there is no permanent Labour Department, but a temporary office has been in existence since 1943, the main function of which has been the organisation and supervision of recruitment of labour for agricultural work in the United States. Under a scheme operated jointly by the Bahamas Government and the United States authorities, some 2,000 Bahamians proceed annually on seasonal contracts to Florida, Minnesota, and certain northern States. Under the Workers' Recruitment Ordinance of 1939, recruiters of labour must be licensed, and licences are only issued for a year, though they may be renewed. No persons under 18 may be recruited, and recruited workers must appear before a magistrate, and be medically examined. The recruiter or employer must pay the journey expenses of recruited workers.

Under the Trade Unions Ordinance of 1943, all trade unions must be registered, and annual returns regarding receipts, expenditure, assets, etc., must be made to the Registrar appointed by the Governor. Persons aged from 16 to 21 may be union members, but must not hold any office. Trade unions are not liable for the actions of members. Peaceful picketing is allowed, but intimidation is illegal, as are strikes and lockouts if they have objects additional to the furtherance of trade disputes or are designed to coerce the Government. In 1949 five trade unions were registered—the Bahamas Trades and Labour Union, the Bahamas Taxicab Union, the Bahamas Plumbers' Union, the Bahamas Typographical Union, and the Bahamas Musicians' Union, with a total membership of 333.

Under the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance of 1943, employers are liable to pay compensation to employees who are partially or totally disabled for 14 days, except when the disablement is due to the taking of drink or drugs, or wilful misconduct or wilful disregard of safety precautions, by the employee. The amounts of compensation payable in case of the death of the employee is 30 months' wages or £100, whichever is less; in the case of permanent total disablement, 42 months' wages or £100,

Digitized by Google

whichever is less, for an adult, and 84 months' wages or £100, whichever is less, for a minor. Smaller payments are made in the case of permanent partial disablement. Agricultural workers, casual workers, clerical workers and shop assistants, domestic servants and persons earning more than £200 a year are not covered by the Ordinance.

The employment of children under 14 in industry, construction or transport by road or rail is prohibited, and young persons from 14 to 16 may not be employed at night (from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in these occupations, or on board ship (except within the waters of the Colony and when only members of the same family are employed). Night work may, however, be permitted if raw materials which deteriorate rapidly are being used.

Under the Minimum Wage Ordinance of 1936, the Governor-in-Council has power to appoint Advisory Boards to consider the wages paid in any occupation, and when satisfied on the advice of the Advisory Board that wages are unreasonably low, may by Order-in-Council fix minimum wages for the occupation in question.

The Labour Board Ordinance, 1946, provides for the establishment of a Labour Board consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, which is to enquire the causes of labour disputes, with a view to conciliation, and to report regarding them to the Governor-in-Council. Legislation embodying the main features of the United Kingdom Factories Act of 1937 is under consideration.

(iv) *Land Tenure*

Land is held in fee simple. Practically all land in the Colony is Crown Land ; leases are granted for a period of years, usually with an option to purchase clause provided certain standards of development have been carried into effect—i.e., the land must be cultivated and improvements made. It is sought to avoid the permanent alienation of an entire cay to one individual or company. The Crown reserves rights to gold, silver, precious metals, minerals, and oil. Property in petroleum and natural gas is vested in the Colony.

(v) *Immigration*

Immigration into the Colony is controlled by the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 258 of the Laws, which gives power to prevent the entry of persons regarded as undesirable. Permission to reside permanently in the Colony is normally granted only to persons who satisfy the Government that they have sufficient means to support themselves without engaging in business or professional activities, and who are otherwise acceptable. A minimum period of six months temporary residence in the Colony is required before permission for permanent residence can be considered.

Permission to take up employment is granted only in special cases, e.g., when the local supply of labour is inadequate.

Transport and Communications

External Transport

Oakes Field airport at Nassau, which is operated by the Government, is of international status and is used by the British Overseas Airways Corporation, Trans-Canada Airlines, and Pan-American Airways. Another airport is under construction at West End, Grand Bahama. In 1949 more than 27,000 passengers arrived in the Colony by air. There are a number of small local companies which use amphibian planes, and regular scheduled flights are made to certain of the Out Islands. Many emergency flights are made to transport sick persons from the Out Islands to the General Hospital in Nassau.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company operates a passenger ship which calls at Nassau about four times per year on the outward trip from the United Kingdom to South America and again on the return journey. Freight vessels owned by the same Company also call at intervals. There are also regular freight services between England and Nassau by steamers of the Royal Mail Line, and to Florida by motor vessels of the Florida Caribbean Line.

Ships of the Canadian National Steamship Line are regular visitors and bring passengers and freight from Canada and the United States. In 1949 a regular fortnightly freight service to New York was started by the North Atlantic and Gulf Steamship Company.

Luxury cruise ships pay visits during the winter season (December–March). Most of the passengers on these vessels are tourists making the round trip New York—Bermuda—Nassau—New York.

Many small vessels ply in the inter-island mail, freight and passenger services, but few of these have accommodation for more than six first-class passengers. There is a regular Nassau–Miami freight service.

There are altogether 14 ports of entry in the Bahamas, of which Nassau is the most important. Nassau has a good harbour, and vessels drawing 23 feet of water can be accommodated beside the main Government dock, which is 600 feet in length. There are also several privately-owned docks in Nassau, used mainly by vessels engaged in inter-island trade. The other ports are situated in the Out Islands.

Internal Transport

New Providence is well supplied with good roads—the total road mileage in 1950 was 197, of which 166 miles had an asphalt or macadam surface, but in the Out Islands journeys by land are apt to be very rough, as motorable roads are practically non-existent there, except on the Island of Eleuthera, which has a first class highway running from north to south for practically its whole length. Work is in progress on extensions to this road.

In October, 1949, there were 2,439 motor vehicles in the colony. There are no public transport facilities and no railways. Most of the islands have one or more wireless stations and some have been equipped with radio telephones. Nassau has a modern telephone system with automatic exchanges, which is being extended, and there is a radio-telephone service to the United States. A considerable number of local vessels are fitted with ship to shore telephone equipment. The telecommunications and telephone system, which is operated by a Board of five members, appointed annually by the Governor, is also responsible for a local broadcasting station.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The oolitic limestone formation of the islands makes agricultural conditions difficult and though two highly developed private enterprises on the Island of Eleuthera, and also smaller units on New Providence, have shown the potentialities of the soil for agricultural production and mixed farming on scientific lines, these have been based on extensive preparation of the ground by the use of machinery, involving capital expenditure beyond the reach of peasant farmers. For the most part, farmers in the settlements follow the practice of shifting cultivation, cutting down the dense secondary bush and burning it. The cleared land is cropped for two or three years and is then allowed to revert to bush. Agricultural methods are primitive ; there is little use of either manure or seaweed, and there is a tendency to gradual exhaustion of the soil by cultivators. There is also some erosion, mainly as a result of wind, and the practice of burning destroys humus.

The limestone has semi-rich potholes of soil, and dynamite is used to blast additional holes which are then filled with soil, often brought from considerable distances. The crops grown include a wide variety of vegetables, as well as guinea corn and maize. In some areas local agricultural production, supplemented by marine products, is sufficient for a settlement to be self-supporting, though other areas continue to depend on foodstuffs brought from elsewhere. A considerable amount of fruit is grown, supplying to some extent the demands of New Providence.

Digitized by Google

The areas of the principal crops under cultivation in 1950 were estimated as follows :—

	Acres
Peas, Beans and Corn	10,000
Coconuts	4,400
Sisal	2,000
Tomatoes	2,000
Citrus	1,200
Pineapples	500

With better methods of cultivation, organisation of marketing, and improved transport facilities both within and between the islands, there is little doubt that agricultural output and exports could be much increased, and considerable reductions made in the existing large imports of agricultural produce.

There is little animal husbandry, and the quality both of domestic livestock and of poultry is poor, though there is not much disease. Little milk is available in the Out Islands, and its price in Nassau is high. Arrangements for the transport of livestock between the islands are unsatisfactory, and local demands for meat and dairy produce are not met. The numbers of livestock in the Colony in 1949 were approximately as follows :—3,000 horses, 3,700 horned cattle, 21,500 sheep, 15,000 goats, 7,500 swine and 380,000 head of poultry.

Local Food Products

Food crops are similar in all the islands. Cabbages, beets, carrots, spinach, English peas, lima beans, okras, sweet potatoes, and onions are grown in large quantities for home consumption and sale in local markets, and tomatoes and pineapples are grown for local consumption and for export. There has recently been a marked increase in the planting of citrus and bananas.

Cash Crops

Cash crops grown include tomatoes, the bulk of which find a ready seasonal market in Canada and the United States of America, pineapples and okras. The export of pineapples has decreased since 1946, and most of the crop is absorbed by the local fruit markets and two small canning factories.

The production of sisal is less than it has been in the past, though a small amount, around 5,000 cwt. a year, is still exported, and exports have recently been increasing. It is expected that there will be an increased production of coconuts.

Forestry

About one-quarter of the total area of the Bahamas is covered with forest, but most of this is coppice or scrub which has grown up following clearing and is of no value as timber. Scattered among these areas are valuable hardwoods, including mastic, mahogany, horseflesh, cedar, lignum vitae, logwood, and braziletto, but not as a rule in sufficient quantities for commercial exploitation.

There are, however, large areas of pine forest, amounting to about 500,000 acres, of which about 360,000 acres are commercially exploitable, on Andros, Grand Bahama, and Abaco. These forests are the subject of a concession to the Bahamas Cuban Company, who have assigned their rights on Abaco and Grand Bahama to the Abaco Lumber Company and on Andros to the Bahamas Lumber Company. Most of the forests in the Colony are on Crown land. A low royalty—1s. 8d. per 1,000 board feet cut—is payable to the Government under the terms of the concession. Lumber is one of the Colony's principal exports; the size and quantities of trees cut by the licencees are restricted in the interests of conservation. The natural regeneration of the forests is excellent and is sufficient, but though it is sought to prevent fires there are considerable losses from this cause. A small quantity of charcoal is produced from the pine forests in New Providence (which amount to about 6,000 acres) for local consumption ; there is some illicit charcoal-burning. These forests are now regenerating, having been heavily worked over for timber.

A scheme for the export of pit props to Great Britain from Abaco is under consideration.

Fisheries

The waters of the Colony abound with fish, which form a valuable item of diet. There is a considerable export of crawfish and a smaller export of scale fish. Before the war there was a good deal of sponge fishing, but this has declined since 1939, when the sponge beds were attacked by a fungus disease. Recently, however, the condition of the sponge beds has shown a considerable improvement.

Minerals

Salt is the only mineral produced in the Bahamas. The original method of production was to flood shallow areas with sea water and to collect the coarse salt crystals, and about twenty years ago there was a flourishing inter-island trade, but plentiful supplies of imported refined salt have almost extinguished it. Occasional cargoes of coarse salt are picked up for the Canadian fish salting industry—mostly from Ragged Island. West Indian Chemicals (an American Company) operate a large salt refining factory on the Island of Inagua ; there are also salt ponds on Rum Cay. The production of salt in 1949 was 55,196 tons, most of which was exported to Canda. The Company has recently erected a magnesium plant.

Manufactures

Local industries are few. There are two lumber mills, one in Grand Bahama and one in Andros, and three small canning plants ; a recent venture is the establishment of a shoe factory on a modest scale. There is also some lime-burning. No information is available regarding value of output or capital investment. Industrial licensing policy is administered by the Shop Licensing Authority, which has recently issued a licence for the establishment of a brewery in Nassau.

Village Industries

These include hat and mat making, shell jewellery and shell work, ornamental straw bags and baskets. Most of these products find their way to Nassau for sale to tourists and others.

Other Economic Activities

(i) *Tourist Industry*

The tourist industry is the most important in the Colony. In recent years visitors have numbered 30,000 to 35,000 annually ; about 80 per cent. of them have been Americans, and more than half travel by air.

It is estimated that hotels, apartment houses and clubs in Nassau can accommodate approximately 2,000 guests at a time. Approximately 200 additional guests can be accommodated in private rooms and houses which are rented. Sums of £63,000 and £71,000 were provided from official funds in 1948 and 1949 respectively for the development of the tourist industry ; while no exact figures are available, its annual value for the Colony may be conservatively estimated at from £2 to £3 million.

(ii) *Distributive Trade*

All wholesalers and manufacturers' representatives are located in New Providence which, since it contains the capital city of Nassau and has nearly half the total population of the entire group, is a natural centre. Generally speaking, the volume of trade is so small that very few houses can exist on wholesale business alone, and several of the larger firms trading in groceries, drugs, building materials, etc., are both wholesalers and retailers, a considerable portion of their wholesale business being concerned with supplying numerous small retailers in the suburbs of Nassau and in the Out Islands, where each of the numerous small settlements, generally with a population of less than 500 persons engaged primarily in farming and fishing, has a number of small general stores providing all essential commodities, such as foodstuffs, clothing, drugs, tools, etc.

Digitized by Google

Locally produced foodstuffs, fish, and native manufactured straw work are sold in the public market in Nassau and by street vendors.

(iii) *Professions*

In 1950 there were about 100 doctors registered, but only about 15 of them were engaged in private practice. There were 39 Government doctors employed in various capacities in the hospitals and Out Islands and five dentists practising in Nassau; throughout the Out Islands there are about 10 unqualified medical practitioners who do extractions.

Apart from the British nursing sisters, of whom there are a matron and eight sisters largely occupied in supervision and the training of some 55 student nurses, there are about 85 graduate nurses, 30 of whom are in Government or associated activities, the remainder being engaged in private nursing. Each of these is also a midwife, and there are in addition throughout the Islands some 50 or more untrained but experienced midwives.

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement has not been developed, being limited at present to 17 Farmers' Associations in the Island of Eleuthera and Cat Island. These Associations are assisted by the Board of Agriculture, which advances seed and fertilizer for the tomato and other crops. The Board markets the crop, and deducts the advances from the proceeds of each consignor until indebtedness is liquidated.

Employment and Labour Supply

Since the war the boom in house-building has given full employment to skilled and semi-skilled labour. The tourist industry provides a considerable amount of employment for domestic servants, chauffeurs, gardeners, etc. Wages for unskilled labour in Government employment were 11s. to 13s. a day for men and 7s. 6d. a day for women in 1951. Wages for skilled and semi-skilled labour vary from 16s. to £3 per day for a good carpenter or mason. These rates are for an eight-hour day; overtime is paid for at 50 per cent. above normal rates.

Domestic servants' wages are from £1 10s. 0d. per week to £6–£8 a week for a trained cook or butler.

The following table shows approximately how workers were employed in 1951 :—

OCCUPATIONS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Unskilled Labourers ..	2,100	500	2,600
Semi-skilled Labourers ..	1,800	300	2,100
Carpenters	650	—	650
Masons	340	—	340
Painters	340	—	340
Mechanics	140	—	140
Fishermen	450	—	450
Total	5,820	800	6,620

A substantial additional number of unskilled labourers, male and female, obtain casual employment in seasonal occupations or engage in peasant farming.

About 3,500 workers were recruited on a contract basis for agricultural work in Florida and Minnesota in 1950 and about 4,500 in 1951. This recruiting is under the control of the Labour Department and the worker is fully protected.

Fuel and Power (including Water)

On the Island of New Providence there are two Government-owned power stations, operated by a Public Utilities Board, with a total installed capacity of 5,920 kW. in 1949. Their generators are diesel-driven; approximately 15 million units were generated in 1949 as compared with 13,289,000 units in 1948. Capacity is being rapidly expanded; extensions amounting to 3,800 kW. were planned for 1950 and 1951, and further extensions are under consideration.

Several of the Out Islands have small privately-owned generating plants which provide a limited supply for the general public. The larger undertakings are generally equipped with diesel-driven generators, operating at American standard low voltages and frequency.

On the Island of New Providence three rates are in force for users of electrical power (except for domestic and minor industrial requirements). Under the "Large Power" Rate, the first 30,000 units are charged at 1d. per unit, the next 10,000 units at ¾d. per unit, and the remainder at ½d. per unit. Units used between 6 p.m. and midnight are at the rate of 4d. per unit, plus a charge based on maximum demand in kVA, plus a temporary overall surcharge of 20 per cent. Under the Bulk Rate supply is given at 2,300 volts or 6,900 volts and the charge is 1¾d. per unit, plus £5 per kVA of maximum demand per annum, plus a temporary surcharge of 20 per cent. Special Rates can be given for large undertakings; these rates generally consist of a flat rate per unit, plus a charge for maximum demand in kVA plus a fuel clause.

There is at present no local source of fuel or power other than wood; the fuel oil used in New Providence and in the Out Islands is all imported.

Waterworks

Nassau has a pipe-borne water supply administered by the Board of Works. All ground water on the Island of New Providence is the accumulation of excess rainfall and care is taken to avoid upsetting the hydrostatic balance between this layer of fresh water and the underlying sea water in the rock. Pumping is by a series of small pumps with suctions submerged only a few feet in the water. No single well yields more than 150 gallons an hour.

The expansion of the various residential districts and the large number of new houses in New Providence have increased the demand for supplies, and consumption has increased from 63 million gallons in 1934 to 225 million gallons in 1949.

Stringent control is exercised over the consumption of city water, its use being limited to domestic and industrial purposes. Water rates are on a sliding scale—3s. for the first 1,000 gallons a week, 6s. for the second 1,000 gallons, and 12s. per 1,000 gallons for all amounts over 2,000 gallons a week. Water for industrial purposes is charged a flat rate of 3s. per 1,000 gallons.

A piped water supply has been installed on Harbour Island, and piped supplies are in course of installation in Spanish Wells and certain other Out Island centres, but most Out Island settlements depend for their water supplies upon wells.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

A table of Revenue and Expenditure is given below, covering the years 1938–1951. Up to 1941 the tourist industry continued and even expanded, and after that date a slight fall in the revenue for 1942 was followed by increases due to large amounts of money put into circulation by the employment in the United States of America of a large number of Bahamian agricultural workers, by the presence in New Providence of Air Force and Army personnel, by the construction of two airfields and generally by inflated prices. After the war a brisk market for real estate developed, with buyers at first chiefly from the United States, and later from the United Kingdom, and there was a building boom which reached its peak in 1948. There was some retrocession in 1949.

Digitized by Google

During the lean years of the early part of the last decade careful budgeting and control of expenditure avoided any large deficit. In some cases there were substantial surpluses, but there was a deficit in 1938, when it was necessary to write off a loss of £263,000 on a mortgage on the British Colonial Hotel. Deficits have been budgeted since 1946, and despite the buoyancy of the revenue, the General Revenue Balance has fallen from £910,485 on 31st December, 1948, to £645,852 on 31st December, 1950.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	Total Revenue	*Total Expenditure*
	£	£
1938	408,743	655,460
1939	409,733	465,509
1940	452,614	501,998
1941	528,366	469,309
1942	481,037	457,281
1943	614,245	544,103
1944	671,397	625,744
1945	607,972	704,504
1946	823,604	839,292
1947	1,352,780	1,112,520
1948	1,360,226	1,317,621
1949	1,329,967	1,509,974
1950 (estimated)	1,315,760	1,817,131
1951 (estimated)	1,540,005	2,151,210

The following tables give particulars of individual items of revenue and expenditure in recent years :—

REVENUE

	Actual 1949	*Approved Estimates*	
		1950	*1951*
	£	£	£
Customs	756,398	759,200	905,100
Import Duty	608,031	637,160	718,050
Emergency Tax	121,242	110,000	155,000
Port Wharf and Harbour Dues	35,151	30,700	46,800
Licences and Internal Revenue	89,813	100,570	149,280
Real Property Tax	21,394	22,000	22,500
Fees of Court or Office	111,833	116,310	67,960
Post Office Revenue	98,094	47,250	63,000
Stamp Sales	86,822	45,000	60,000
Rent of Government Property	2,466	1,870	1,055
Miscellaneous Receipts	10,913	7,860	8,640
Interest	8,767	6,600	5,500
Electric Power House Receipts	116,418	123,000	135,600
Telegraph and Telephone Revenue	79,185	94,200	126,250
Aviation	20,939	28,200	30,220
	£1,329,967	1,315,760	1,540,005

The Public Debt amounted to £456,000 on 31st December, 1950. Loans amounting to £141,000, mainly for telephone and electricity development, were raised during 1950, and the raising of a further £350,000 for hospital extension, £208,000 for the construction of power station buildings and for the purchase of new electrical generators and equipment, and £32,000 for the extension of the telephone system, have been authorised. The colony has no Ten Year Development Plan, and therefore does not receive any allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

EXPENDITURE

	Actual 1949	*Approved Estimates*	
		1950	*1951*
	£	£	£
Governor and Staff	6,969	9,211	9,711
Legislative Council and House of Assembly	8,253	10,561	12,723
Agricultural and Marine Products Board	15,457	28,985	28,563
Audit	1,705	2,305	2,493
Aviation	35,117	51,954	57,307
Development Board	94,031	161,345	202,500
Education	68,292	104,101	122,535
Electrical	85,045	126,457	135,159
Judicial, Legal	8,348	9,388	11,788
Labour	9,855	10,176	12,089
Medical	122,016	158,262	172,966
Pensions and Gratuities	38,711	41,203	48,303
Police, Prisons and Industrial School	94,754	158,067	174,178
Port and Marine	17,466	27,755	28,448
Post Office	25,770	40,685	47,139
Public Debt	21,332	27,283	37,218
Public Libraries	2,220	3,182	3,182
Secretariat, Clerical Staff	35,544	56,250	66,224
Treasury, Customs, Controls	25,866	32,007	36,047
Water and Sewerage	30,672	46,380	50,639
Public Works Department	10,511	16,638	36,163
Public Works New Providence—Recurrent	44,574	58,952	65,605
Public Works New Providence—non-Recurrent	85,256	125,853	311,819
Public Works Out Islands —Recurrent	14,352	20,580	24,280
Public Works Out Islands —non-Recurrent	75,072	67,478	118,850
Out Islands Department	68,751	91,037	93,947
Out Islands Improvements	21,694	22,040	22,040
Miscellaneous	369,607	193,674	80,859
Total	£1,509,974	1,817,131	2,151,210

There is no income tax in the Colony ; customs duties are the main form of taxation, and have provided between 55 per cent. and 60 per cent. of total revenue in recent years. There is a tax of 2 per cent. on personal estates of deceased persons amounting to more than £100—the receipts from which are about £3,000 per annum—and also a Real Property Tax of 2s. 6d. in the £ on buildings of an assessed annual rental exceeding £30. The incidence of customs duties is wide, but an attempt has been made to provide relief for the poorer classes by fixing nominal specific rates on certain foodstuffs such as rice, wheat, wheat flour, salted or cured meats, etc.

Local Government

There are no Municipal or Local Authorities in New Providence.

Local Boards of Works have been established at a number of centres in the Out Islands, and administer funds voted by the Legislature, together with the proceeds of the Real Property Tax levied on real property in the area. No separate statements are compiled of the revenue and expenditure of these Local Boards of Works.

Currency and Banking

The Bahamas Government issues local currency notes in denominations of 4s., 10s., £1 and £5. These and British silver coin are legal tender. The note issue is secured by investments in sterling securities in London. Notes in circulation at 31st December, 1951, amounted to £775,600. United States currency also circulates freely, it being obligatory on residents to hand over all dollars received to the authorised dealers.

The Royal Bank of Canada has had a branch in Nassau for many years, and Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.) opened a branch there in 1947.

Deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank amounted to £355,900 on 31st December, 1949, as compared with £379,803 on 31st December, 1948, and £73,798 on 31st December, 1938.

Digitized by Google

Private Investment

There has been very considerable private investment in the development of facilities for visitors, in the construction of residences, in agricultural development in New Providence and some of the Out Islands, in the salt industry on Inagua, in the lumber industry on Andros and Grand Bahama, and in inter-island marine transport, but no statistics regarding the amounts invested are available.

There are over 500 companies in operation in the Bahamas, about half of which are externally controlled and many of which do no business in the islands. There have been no bankruptcies in the colony during the last five years. There are no Building Societies.

Cost of Living

An index is compiled for measuring changes in the cost of living for working class families. The index is based on the prices prevailing in September, 1939; its movements in recent years have been as follows :—

	September 1939 = 100	
January	1945 ..	196
September.. ..	1946 ..	254
March	1947 ..	261
January	1948 ..	300
January	1949 ..	310
January	1950 ..	331
January	1951 ..	390

For the working-class the staple articles of diet are flour, fish, hominy, meal, sugar and occasionally meat; their cost has greatly increased as compared with before the war. Rents, which in New Providence may have been from 7s. to 10s. a week before the war for a working-class house, have also risen three or four times; there is no rent restriction, and no general system of official price control.

With the exception of fish, some fruit and vegetables in season, and poultry and dairy products which are produced in the Colony, foodstuffs are imported. In the Out Islands imported foodstuffs are more expensive than in New Providence, but some of the islands have better supplies of local produce.

In New Providence, the tariff in first-class hotels during the winter season varied in 1951 from £7 to £10 per day (inclusive) and in the smaller hotels from £2 to £6 per day (inclusive). During the period from May to November, rooms could be obtained in the smaller hotels for approximately £1 15s. 0d. per day. A furnished house costs from about £360 to £600 a year. In the Out Islands there are a few hotels and boarding houses, but suitable bungalows are difficult to obtain.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Total imports and exports during the years 1937 to 1950 have been as follows :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Year	*Total Imports (c.i.f.) (including Parcel Post)*	*Total Exports (f.o.b.)*	*Re-exports*
	£	£	£
1937	1,219,353	295,076	130,219
1938	1,146,909	216,336	67,889
1939	1,094,170	180,281	30,562
1940	1,284,417	229,140	98,221
1941	1,519,029	301,858	109,149
1942	1,326,463	292,777	64,426
1943	1,526,624	424,916	52,601
1944	1,743,399	338,482	38,800
1945	1,806,019	432,202	55,545
1946	2,840,576	399,319	77,756
1947	4,202,404	721,615	360,111
1948	4,720,151	551,920	203,712
1949	4,775,942	660,813	172,448
1950	6,150,200	904,671	286,190

The following tables show the principal imports and exports, their sources and destinations, before the war and in recent years :—

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value	Main Sources	Quantity	Value	Main Sources	Quantity	Value	Main Sources
			£	£000s		£	£000s		£	£000s
Flour	cwt.	95,790	55,484	Canada 39·6, Australia 9·3, U.K. 6·1.	90,489	170,211	Canada 169·1	102,039	220,383	Canada 219·3
Grains (chicken and dairy feed)	cwt.	12,802	6,017	U.S.A. 4·2, Canada 1·8	60,126	78,175	U.S.A. 67·7, Canada 10·5	78,052	140,094	U.S.A. 125·9, Canada 14·2
Rice	cwt.	34,769	18,232	Burma 17·9	23,359	57,893	U.S.A. 57·8	40,527	118,145	U.S.A. 68·6, Burma 49·5
Lard and substitutes	cwt.	10,937	21,805	U.K. 20·3	16,202	115,583	U.K. 114·7	14,470	103,824	U.K. 103·6
Meats, salted and cured (including hams and bacon)	cwt.	5,834	21,185	U.S.A. 12·7, Canada 5·2	12,714	145,592	Canada 106·2, U.S.A. 26·9	12,922	168,071	Canada 93·7, U.S.A. 38·4, Australia 29·9.
Meats, canned	—	—	11,264	Argentina 7·9, U.S.A. 2·7	—	64,961	Australia 44·9	—	75,572	Australia 60·6
Meats, fresh (including poultry and game)	cwt.	5,645	25,715	U.S.A. 15·9, Canada 9·2	13,887	171,005	Canada 87·8, U.S.A. 51·3, Australia 31·9.	17,623	204,269	Australia 111·9, U.S.A. 63·3, Canada 24·1.
Milk, tinned	—	—	20,944	Canada 11·7, U.S.A. 4·4	—	96,912	Canada 87·2	—	115,667	Canada 94·0, Australia 16·6
Butter	cwt.	2,135	13,976	New Zealand 6·4, Canada 5·2	2,751	42,100	Australia 35·5	4,450	63,545	Australia 61·7
Sugar	cwt.	32,660	15,404	Cuba 9·3, U.K. 3·2, U.S.A. 2·6	35,560	64,834	Jamaica 64·6	46,636	98,549	Jamaica 98·0
Provisions	—	—	26,044	U.S.A. 19·9	—	134,847	U.S.A. 97·5, Canada 25·1	—	174,649	U.S.A. 111·0, U.K. 37·1, Canada 19·5.
Vegetables, fresh	—	—	13,078	U.S.A. 9·7, Canada 2·9	—	65,879	U.S.A. 42·7, Canada 21·1	—	80,417	U.S.A. 51·5, Canada 27·9
Beer, ale and stout	gallons	52,956	10,669	U.K. 7·8, Germany 1·4	96,534	47,157	U.K. 20·0, Germany 8·3, Denmark 7·9, Holland 7·8.	100,688	48,525	U.K. 20·8, Holland 15·4, Denmark 5·0.
Wines and spirits	—	—	40,014	U.K. 17·1, Jamaica 11·2, France 5·0.	—	168,893	U.K. 45·5, Barbados 42·3, Trinidad 35·9.	—	195,360	U.K. 65·0, Trinidad 37·3, Barbados 35·6.
Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes	—	—	19,298	U.S.A. 16·7, U.K. 1·7	—	66,773	U.K. 33·6, U.S.A. 27·9	—	87,326	U.K. 43·8, U.S.A. 34·3
Toilet preparations, soap (all kinds), perfumery	—	—	33,082	France 17·5, U.K. 7·2, U.S.A. 6·7.	—	89,918	U.K. 60·0, U.S.A. 17·8, France 8·9.	—	115,057	U.K. 59·2, France 37·5, U.S.A. 15·4.
Medicines and Drugs	—	—	15,527	U.S.A. 11·2, U.K. 3·4	—	50,645	U.S.A. 36·8, U.K. 6·9	—	58,563	U.S.A. 39·6, U.K. 11·1
Boots and shoes (including rubber and canvas)	doz. pairs	9,952	18,365	U.S.A. 12·7, Canada 2·0	11,000	87,192	U.S.A. 48·7, U.K. 31·3	11,112	94,332	U.S.A. 49·5, U.K. 41·8
Apparel	—	—	42,311	U.K. 21·0, U.S.A. 16·9	—	126,103	U.S.A. 105·2, U.K. 18·5	—	195,400	U.S.A. 136·0, U.K. 50·1
Cotton piece goods	sq. yds.	1,083,000	24,803	U.S.A. 12·4, U.K. 12·0	625,748	62,885	U.S.A. 43·1, U.K. 16·7	880,409	107,568	U.S.A. 68·3, U.K. 34·0
Woollen piece goods	sq. yds.	75,000	16,718	U.K. 16·3	79,702	50,829	U.K. all	94,288	59,976	U.K. 59·3
Furniture	—	—	35,243	U.S.A. 30·2, U.K. 3·4	—	123,583	U.S.A. 93·8, U.K. 22·9	—	160,476	U.S.A. 107·6, U.K. 43·5
Lumber	ft.	4,353,000	32,650	U.S.A. 31·5	2,462,000	86,002	U.S.A. 53·3, Canada 30·4	1,928,000	102,295	Canada 52·7, U.S.A. 49·3
Cement	tons	6,349	18,459	U.K. 15·3, Canada 2·5	11,783	62,452	U.K. 53·0, U.S.A. 9·4	11,432	79,072	U.K. 75·6
Hardware	—	—	46,297	U.S.A. 35·8, U.K. 6·6	—	150,894	U.S.A. 97·5, U.K. 40·9	—	169,315	U.S.A. 105·0, U.K. 53·6
Electrical apparatus and appliances	—	—	25,085	U.S.A. 23·6	—	97,128	U.S.A. 80·3, U.K. 13·9	—	112,857	U.S.A. 83·4, U.K. 25·4
Machinery	—	—	25,011	U.S.A. 24·8	—	200,718	U.S.A. 138·2, U.K. 62·2	—	434,970	U.S.A. 234·0, U.K. 198·4
Motor cars and trucks	number	215	20,240	Canada 11·8, U.S.A. 7·7	232	101,749	U.K. 63·1, U.S.A. 34·8	328	122,986	U.K. 70·5, U.S.A. 47·1
Oils, crude	gallons	802,000	8,947	Aruba 7·1, U.S.A. 1·8	2,397,000	86,068	Aruba 82·1	2,159,000	100,910	Aruba 91·1, U.S.A. 9·8
„ gasoline	m. gallons	1,081,000	26,057	Trinidad 22·9, U.S.A. 3·2	3,108,000	164,312	Aruba 155·6, U.S.A. 7·6	2,626,000	162,961	Aruba 144·9, U.S.A. 18·1

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value	Main Destinations	Quantity	Value	Main Destinations	Quantity	Value	Main Destinations
			£	£000s		£	£000s		£	£000s
Crawfish	cwt.	9,727	8,255	U.S.A. all	16,415	64,392	U.S.A. all	27,189	58,683	U.S.A. all
Sponge	lb.	926,584	89,858	U.K. 37·2, U.S.A. 17·8, Holland 13·9.	2,492	4,636	U.S.A. 2·4, Canada 2·2	1,344	3,896	U.S.A. 2·5, Canada 1·4
Salt	bushels*	133,121	1,706	Canada 1·5	1,529,000	68,142	Canada 50·2, Japan 17·5	642,000	35,224	Canada 35·2
Shells	—	—	972	U.K. 0·7	—	8,858	U.S.A. 8·3	—	12,674	U.S.A. 11·2
Shell- and straw-work	—	—	—	—	—	8,799	U.S.A. 4·8, U.K. 3·0	—	17,819	U.S.A. 10·4, U.K. 6·2
Lumber	s. ft.	1,303,000	8,934	Jamaica 6·8, Cuba 2·2	8,271,000	197,490	Jamaica 64·0, Trinidad 46·8, Cuba 36·3, Antigua 26·4.	8,142,000	241,840	Trinidad 95·5, Jamaica 72·4, Cuba 40·5.
Bahamas Hemp	cwt.	2,240	1,275	U.S.A. 1·1	3,249	4,386	U.K. 3·1, U.S.A. 1·3	5,039	16,886	U.K., all
Tomatoes, raw	bushels	67,000	25,366	Canada 25·2	75,339	75,385	Canada 66·4, U.S.A. 8·8	120,652	139,158	Canada 77·8, U.S.A. 61·2
Coconuts, shredded	cases	—	—	—	6,042	14,561	U.K. all	19,139	43,771	U.K. 43·7
Okras	barrels	—	—	—	2,798	19,356	Canada all	1,131	8,486	Canada 5·1, U.S.A. 3·4

* 28 bushels of salt = 1 ton.

Digitized by Google

The direction of trade, before and after the war, is shown in the following table :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

	Total Imports (excluding Parcel Post)			*Domestic Exports*			*Re-Exports*			*Total Exports*		
	1938	1949	1950	1938	1949	1950	1938	1949	1950	1938	1949	1950
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	25	28	30	28	5	13	10	31	37·5	23	12	20
Canada	12	15	13	25	18	19	1	7	4	17	15	15
Other Commonwealth Countries ..	8	7	10	5	44	34	6	4	6	5	33	25
U.S.A.	47	42	40	23	21	26	82	55	50	42	30	34
Other Foreign Countries	8	8	7	19	12	8	1	3	2·5	13	10	6

As in other colonies, the official policy is to avoid imports from hard currency sources when they can be obtained elsewhere.

There is normally a large surplus of merchandise imports over merchandise exports, and this surplus has tended to grow in recent years. This surplus is mainly accounted for by the current earnings of the tourist industry, capital development with funds obtained from abroad—largely in the form of hotel and private house construction—and remittances of Bahamaian workers in the United States. Of these, the current earnings of the tourist industry are likely to be the most important ; no precise statistics are available regarding them, but they are estimated to have been between £2 million and £3 million in 1949.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

No Ten Year Development Plan has been prepared and there has been no request for assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Provision is made in the Annual Estimates for buildings, roads, water supplies and wharves in New Providence and the Out Islands, and for the development of services requiring recurrent expenditure ; expenditure on electrical power and lighting development in New Providence, telecommunications development in the Colony as a whole, and a new hospital and a new prison in Nassau, is being met through loans.

Other Development

The main industry in the Colony is the tourist industry and a considerable expansion is taking place in the capacity to accommodate visitors in Nassau and in a number of the Out Islands. Among the latter, the most important project has been the construction of Butlin's Vacation Village at West End, Grand Bahama. This is designed to provide accommodation for 1,000 guests on the completion of the first stage, and for 2,000 guests when fully developed. The sale of this enterprise to American interests has been under negotiation for some time.

In 1950 the Colonial Development Corporation acquired the lease of 2,300 acres of fresh-water swamp land on Andros, which is being drained and cultivated on lines similar to those which have been successful in Florida. At the same time the Corporation also purchased an estate of 8,800 acres on Eleuthera, including a farm, 11 houses, a cannery, and a power house ; the farm is being run by the Corporation, and local farmers are being assisted by its operation of a central processing, canning, and packing plant, which is intended to improve the quality of agricultural exports. A company is to be formed in conjunction with Bahamaian interests to undertake the residential development of the remainder of the estate. Other entrepreneurs have been and are undertaking major agricultural schemes on Eleuthera and the east coast of Andros.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

By the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 172) weights and measures are fixed at the standard of those used in England previous to the introduction of Imperial weights and measures. Imperial weights and measures are used, however, in the collection of duties on imports.

Digitized by Google

BARBADOS

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

Barbados is situated in latitude 13° 14′ N. and longitude 59° 37′ W. and is the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands. It is nearly 21 miles long and 14 miles across at the widest point and contains an area of 106,470 acres or about 166 square miles.

The land rises from the west coast in a series of terraces to a ridge near the centre of the island, the highest point being Mt. Hillaby (1,100 feet). To the north and east the land descends more abruptly towards the sea. The Scotland area in the north east is more rugged in appearance than the rest of the island and has a different geological structure. The general appearance of the island is green and undulating, and it is almost entirely given over to the cultivation of sugar, which covers some 40,000 acres or two-thirds of the total arable acreage. There are also 1,464 acres of woodland and 12,594 acres of pasturage which are too poor for sugar cane. There are only 46 acres of indigenous forest land. Except in the Scotland district the soil is coral limestone. This varies from a thin veneer to several hundred feet and is of two types, red and black soils, the former covering the coastal belt and southern plain of St. George and the latter the higher inland areas. Sugar is grown on both these soils. The Scotland soils are too thin for sugar except where they overlie the oceanic rocks and in the alluvial flats in valleys. Generally the soil throughout the island has little depth and loses its fertility unless heavily fertilised.

There are no lakes, rivers or mountains on the island.

Barbados has one of the most pleasant climates in the West Indies. There is comparatively little variation in temperature, the mean temperature being between 75°–80° throughout the year and the extreme minimum and maximum temperature ranging from 65° in the cooler months to 90° in the hotter months. Mean humidity ranges from 65 per cent. in March to 75 per cent. June–November, with an average for the year of about 70 per cent. During the period December–May the island gets the full benefit of the cool N.E. trade winds. Ordinary storms are comparatively infrequent for a tropical country and hurricanes are rare. The island lies on a fringe of a hurricane belt but has experienced no hurricanes this century.

The average rainfall and the relation between rainfall and the sugar crop is shown in the following tables :—

Average Rainfall 1847–1946 *for* 117 *stations*

Month	*Rainfall (inches)*
January	3·37
February	2·11
March	1·94
April	2·33
May	3·19
June	5·31
July	6·21
August	7·26
September	7·66
October	7·77
November	7·78
December	4·80
	59·73

Relation between Rainfall and Sugar Production in selected years

Year	*Rainfall*	*Year*	*Tons of Sugar*
1930	38·44	1931	65,532
1938	88·37	1939	156,443
1947	38·80	1948	78,226
1948	69·81	1949	152,700

Population

The census of 1946 recorded a population of 192,800, its racial composition being :—

		%
African Descent	148,923	77·3
Mixed or Coloured	33,828	17·5
European	9,839	5·1
Asiatic	136	0·1
Not stated	74	
	192,800	100·00

The age and sex groupings (as shown by the 1946 census) were :—

POPULATION—AGE AND SEX GROUPINGS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
0– 9	21,992	22,523	44,515
10–19	18,329	19,477	37,806
20–29	13,573	16,090	29,663
30–39	12,978	15,856	28,834
40–49	9,397	12,710	22,107
50–59	4,412	8,505	12,917
60–69	2,794	6,415	9,209
70 and over and unstated	2,252	5,497	7,749
	85,727	107,073	192,800

The high proportion of females to males in the population is due largely to the effect of emigration on the numbers of males of working age.

The estimated population at the end of December, 1951, was 215,128 and the density 1,296 persons per square mile. This is a very large population for a purely agricultural country the size of Barbados to support and "over population" has long been a problem. The rate of increase, however, has not been very rapid in this century and the population actually declined between 1891 and 1921 due to large scale emigration to Panama and Cuba. The population recorded at the various census dates was :—

POPULATION AT VARIOUS CENSUS DATES

	1891	1911	1921	1946
Males	81,657	70,577	63,421	85,727
Females	101,210	101,760	93,353	107,073
Total	182,867	172,337	156,774	192,800

The average annual intercensal* increases in this period were :—

1891–1911	1911–1921	1921–1946
0·29%	0·95%	0·84%

* Population on ships excluded in this calculation.

Digitized by Google

The rise in the rate of natural increase since 1921 has been due not to a rising birth rate (this has actually declined over the period) but to the fall in the death rate. Crude birth and death rates and rate of natural increase during this period were :—

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1921–25	1926–30	1931–35	1936–40	1941–45
Per 1,000 mean population—					
Birth Rate ..	35·03	34·34	32·08	32·32	32·07
Death Rate..	32·90	26·95	23·58	19·93	18·44
Natural Increase ..	2·13	7·39	8·50	12·39	13·63

Since 1945 there has been a very slight increase in birth rates (with a fall in 1949) while death rates continue to fall :—

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (POST-WAR)

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Birth Rate ..	31·9	31·7	32·5	31·1	30·7
Death Rate ..	17·0	16·3	15·7	14·6	12·9
Natural Increase ..	14·9	15·4	16·8	16·5	17·8

Infant mortality rates are still very high by European standards and also by comparison with other British West Indian territories. There has, however, been a steady fall in the rate over the last 20–30 years :—

INFANT MORTALITY

	1921–25	1926–30	1931–35	1936–40	1941–45	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Infant deaths under one year per 1,000 live births	313·5	267·5	240·3	209·1	176·3	160	171	154	125	136

The estimated net addition to population between 1921 and 1946 resulting from natural increase was 38,363 which was 21,095 greater than the recorded intercensal increase (excluding population on ships) so that unless these estimates are subject to a large margin of error net migration can be assumed to have been of this order during this period.

For many years considerable numbers of Barbadian workers have sought employment in the United States and other West Indian islands and in the Dutch islands of Aruba and Curaçao, mostly working for a definite period and then returning home. This movement is kept under Government supervision. The numbers going abroad in this way since 1941 were :—

EMIGRATION

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
To United States	—	—	3,605	4,384	3,086	516	486
„ Curaçao	786	—	137	96	331	456	532
„ Trinidad	2,167	116	50	—	—	—	—
„ Bermuda	219	59	21	24	54	60	91

The census of 1946 showed that of the total gainfully occupied population of 91,369, farm labourers accounted for 23,451 ; there were also 16,148 engaged in personal service (mostly as domestics), 2,470 were in the professions (mostly teachers), 9,746 in trade and commerce (mostly salespeople and hawkers) and 16,178 in factories and workshops (nearly 8,000 of whom were dressmakers and tailors). The numbers engaged in the principal industries (as distinct from numbers in different occupations shown above) were :—

NUMBERS IN PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

Industry	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Agriculture (mainly sugar)	13,850	11,395	25,245*
Quarrying	393	16	409
Fishing	1,489	1	1,490
Forestry	58	—	58
Manufacture and Repair—			
Sugar Milling	2,427	153	2,580
Food manufacture ..	1,052	227	1,279
Saw Milling	550	2	552
Clothing, etc., manufacture	2,588	6,829	9,417
Metal work	2,024	28	2,052
Other manufactures ..	2,256	167	2,423
Construction and other ..	7,574	327	7,901
Retail Trade	3,584	6,789	10,373
Wholesale Trade	1,467	199	1,666
Finance	252	99	351
Professions	1,103	1,487	2,590
Public service	2,596	356	2,952
Hotels, Laundries, etc. ..	479	1,308	1,787
Domestic Service.. ..	2,222	12,004	14,226
Transport and Communications	3,122	95	3,217
Recreation	238	57	295
Ill-defined	452	54	506
	49,776	41,593	91,369

* Of this total 22,535 were employed in sugar planting, 2,357 in mixed farming and 353 in other agriculture.

In addition to this 91,369, there were 2,295 learners, making a total labour force of 93,664 (of whom 7·75 per cent. were unemployed at the time of the census but have been distributed over the industries to which they normally belonged). The total number of wage and salary earners included in the 91,369 given above were :—

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
At work	36,501	26,686	63,187
Learners	2,943	1,606	4,549
Unemployed	2,501	2,463	4,964
	41,945	30,755	72,700

The numbers of employees, employers and workers on own account, by industry, shown in the census were as follows (the figures include learners but exclude unemployed) :—

Digitized by Google

EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYEES, AND WORKERS ON OWN ACCOUNT

	Employers	*Employees*	*Workers on own account*
*Agriculture	207	23,938	493
Mining and Quarrying	4	372	17
Fishing and Hunting	185	523	767
Forestry	—	28	29
*Manufacture and Repair	128	9,982	7,563
Construction	25	6,717	591
Transport and Communication	37	2,550	267
Commerce and Finance	309	5,271	6,181
**Services*—*			
Recreational	7	2,447	354
Professional	12		
Public	4	2,735	
Personal	35	709	954
Domestic	—	12,209	—
Ill-defined	—	255	—
Total	953	67,736	17,216

* The numbers of employees in these groups classified by sex were :—

Agriculture

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Sugar Planting	11,699	10,151	21,850
Mixed Farming	1,002	839	1,841
Other Agriculture	203	44	247
Total Agriculture	12,904	11,034	23,938

Manufacture and Repair

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Sugar Milling	2,285	149	2,434
Other Food and Drink	821	116	937
Saw Milling	494	2	496
Textiles and apparel	884	2,118	3,002
Metals and machinery	1,473	28	1,501
All other Manufactures	1,482	130	1,612
Total Manufacture and Repair	7,439	2,543	9,982

Services

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Recreational and Professional	1,164	1,283	2,447
Public	2,380	355	2,735
Personal	230	479	709
Domestic	2,014	10,195	12,209
Total Services	5,788	12,312	18,000

Social Amenities

Education

Elementary education is free but not compulsory. The 1946 Census showed that of the number of children of school age 73 per cent. were attending school.

In 1949 there were 124 elementary schools which were entirely maintained by Government funds, supplemented by a grant of £1,025 contributed by the eleven Vestries of the Island towards the upkeep of the school buildings, most of which are owned by the Government although some still remain vested in the Church and Vestry. The schools are divided into boys', girls', and senior and junior co-educational. The school leaving age is 14 years. There were 15,223 boys and 14,493 girls attending elementary school in 1949.

There are 11 secondary schools—three first-grade and eight second-grade. There were 1,752 boys and 994 girls in secondary schools in 1949. The three first-grade secondary schools prepare pupils for the School and Higher Certificates of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board. The other eight schools, consisting of four boys', three girls', and one co-educational, are scattered throughout the Island. A large modern secondary girls' school in the City area and a secondary boys' school in a rural area were in course of erection in 1950.

In addition to the public elementary and Government-aided secondary schools, there are many well-run private schools for both boys and girls, which also enter candidates for the School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. There is at present no supervision of these schools by the Government.

Scholarships are provided for boys and girls to secondary schools from Government and Vestry funds. In 1949 the Central Government granted £800 for free scholarships to secondary schools, the Vestries £1,650 and private endowments and subscriptions £1,088. Two Island Scholarships, each valued at £70 per annum, tenable at Codrington College for three years, are awarded annually on the results of a special examination set by the Principal of the College. An annual scholarship known as the " Barbados Scholarship " has been awarded for many years on the results of the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate Examination and is valued at approximately £1,000 plus passage expenses to the United Kingdom, and a cost of living allowance. In September, 1949, an Act was passed increasing the number of the Barbados scholarships to five, four open to boys and girls and one reserved for girls. Two Scholarships to the University College of the West Indies and two to Codrington College have also been approved.

A Teachers' Training College at Erdiston with a Model School for practice in teaching was opened in 1948. It is a residential college with accommodation for 16 men and 16 women who will receive instruction in modern methods of teaching. In 1949 there were 800 teachers in elementary schools and 140 in secondary schools.

The Barbados Evening Institute was opened in September, 1948, and students were offered classes in academic subjects up to matriculation standard, commercial classes and courses in domestic science, building and architecture, motor mechanics and electricity.

Codrington College, founded in 1710, is the only institution providing higher education and has between 20 and 30 students. It admits candidates to general, classical and theological degrees of Durham University to which it is affiliated.

There are no technical schools in the Colony. Elementary technical training in carpentry, plumbing, electrical mechanics, printing, etc., is provided by the Board of Industrial Training under the Apprenticeship Bursaries Act, 1928.

During 1949, 20 apprentices completed their training. Under this system the training is confined to placing the apprentices under master workmen who give them a five year course and present them for examination at the end of each year. The whole system of vocational education is now under review and it is expected that recommendations will be submitted for a more advanced form of technical and vocational education.

Digitized by Google

Health

The principal diseases are tuberculosis, venereal diseases, and enteric fevers. There is no malaria. Hospital accommodation is as follows :—

Hospital accommodation

Central Government—	
Barbados General Hospital	306 beds
Mental Hospital	750 patients
Leper Hospital	45 patients
Maternity Hospital	20 beds
Local Government—	
Almshouses for each parish	
Private—	
Doctor's Clinics (2)	6 beds
Children's House	
Child's Crèche	
Child Welfare Clinics (3)	

Until 1950 the supervision of hygiene and sanitation was in the hands of the Vestries which employed the Sanitary Inspectors. However, in 1950 the Legislature approved a bill to divide the Island into three wards for the administration of health measures, each under a Medical Officer of Health. In addition, a number of Health Centres were planned from which the nurses would carry out home visiting.

The nutritional state of the population is at a moderately high level, having improved considerably in the last 10 years. There has been no increase in deficiency diseases among the poorer classes but there is evidence of some degree of deficiency in the Vitamin B complex and the intake of protein is below the recommended allowance. All elementary school pupils receive milk and food yeast biscuits at school.

Housing

The housing position is far from good. The census of 1946 showed that there were over 1,300 dwellings with more than five persons per room. With the object of reducing the housing shortage and improving housing standards after the war the Government commenced the building of houses for rental and also provided prepared building sites in some areas for rental to persons building their own homes. Between April, 1949, and February, 1951, the Government had completed 127 houses, most of which were of three rooms ; of these houses 80 have their own water supply, water toilets and showers, and the remainder bathrooms and pit latrines but no water laid on. All are built of concrete blocks or local stones. The standard set up for government built houses in town prescribes a minimum of 48 square feet of floor area per person, and an area of 72 square feet, 8 ft. 6 in. ceiling height, and cross ventilation in each room. No housing is undertaken by local authorities.

A large number of chattel houses are built by private persons, not for speculative purposes but for their own occupation. These houses, both in town and country, usually take the form of a small timber building supported on blocks of stone at the corners, with shingle roof. There is no bath or shower, but a pit latrine is usually constructed at the end of the house lot. No overcrowding standards are applied and no attempt made at sex segregation. Water is obtained from public standpipes, sometimes at considerable distances away from the houses.

The provision of houses by Government is of such recent origin that no definite policy has yet been formulated with respect to the subsidising of housing schemes. The present standard of housing falls so far short of the standards aimed at, and the rents which the people most in need of houses can afford are so low that a very high subsidy would be required. The cost of the houses erected on the outskirts of Bridgetown was approximately £700 each, including the cost of road construction, site layout, boundary walls, main water supply and water borne drainage. The cost of building the house itself was £500. The rent ranges from $1–$1·8 per week, inclusive of water rates. If maintenance at £4 per house per annum and interest and sinking fund at 3 per cent. and insurance at 4s. in the £100 are allowed in the building cost of £500 all over a period of 40 years, the subsidy works out at a little over 100 per cent. The aim is to reduce the capital cost of houses and site works although to do so may involve a lowering of the standards adopted.

At another site timber houses were constructed by the Housing Board in 1940 at a cost of £102 and £132 per house plus £95 for roads, water and sanitary units. These chattel houses are being purchased by the tenants on a hire purchase system. Their rents range from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week.

Sites upon which people may erect their own houses have been prepared on the outskirts of Bridgetown. The rent charged for a prepared site of this nature to which a chattel house is moved, has been fixed at 60 cents (2s. 6d.) per month plus 66 cents (2s. 9d.) water rates. These sites include roads, water, the foursquare sanitary unit mentioned above and boundary walls between houses, with cactus hedges dividing house lots behind the houses. The cost of preparing these sites in the case of the above scheme was £160 per house lot, so that with rent at 2s. 6d. per month the subsidy is very much higher than that for new houses. Between March, 1949, and February, 1951, 330 owner-occupied houses were removed from congested areas and re-erected on new estates.

Many private individuals construct timber chattel houses for themselves but the number so constructed in the year is not known. All building materials are imported with the exception of coral limestone and lime produced locally. Builders are badly organised, carrying no plant and very little permanent staff ; they are therefore incapable of pricing a bill of quantities or estimating accurately a firm price for any building project. Nearly all building is done on a cost plus basis, with the builder buying his materials from the merchants at retail prices. (There is a discount of 5 per cent. on some items but merchants' and agents' prices are generally high.)

There are no building societies in the Colony, although the Barbados Co-operative Bank will advance money for the purchase of real estate and chattel property at 4–6 per cent. interest, depending upon the security and the period of repayment.

There is no building or planning legislation in the Colony. Attempts are being made to introduce bye-law and building line control. A development plan for Bridgetown was produced in 1947 by the Government Architect and Planning Officer, but without legislation it has been impossible to implement any of this plan.

Social Security

There are no provisions for unemployment assistance. An Old Age Pension Act came into operation on 1st May, 1938, making provision for the payment of pensions to persons who had reached the age of 70 years, at a maximum rate of 1s. 6d. per week, with a means test of 4s. a week. By amending Acts the qualifying age has been reduced to 68 years, the pension has been made available to blind persons at the age of 40 years, and the pension and the means test have been increased to 5s. and 7s. 3d. a week respectively. During 1949, £83,179 was paid out in old age pensions to 7,251 persons.

The care and maintenance of the infirm, aged and destitute poor is a duty of the Vestry of the Parish in which such persons reside. In 1948, 19,351 persons received parochial relief at a cost of £109,560 and 3,638 were admitted to almshouses, 791 owing to destitution and 2,847 for indoor medical relief.

There are 163 Friendly Societies on the register. The total membership is approximately 81,500, but many persons belong to more than one society ; dependants number about 376,500 and contributions average £115,000 annually. These societies provide relief in sickness, assist in the payment of funeral expenses and give a Christmas bonus to paying members.

Digitized by Google

Political Structure

Constitutional and Political Background

Barbados possesses representative institutions, but not complete responsible Government. The Crown has the right to veto legislation, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies retains the right of appointment and control of all Public Officers, except the Treasurer, who since 1710 has been nominated by the House of Assembly.

The Legislature consists of the Governor, the Legislative Council, consisting of 15 members appointed by the Queen, and the House of Assembly, consisting of 24 members (two from each parish and two from Bridgetown) elected for a period of three years. The House of Assembly was constituted in 1639 and is the oldest Colonial legislative body apart from the Bermuda House of Assembly. In 1944 the income qualification for voters was reduced from £50 to £20 per year, and the franchise was given to females, who also became eligible for election as members. Members' qualification is the ownership of 30 acres in fee simple or tail, with dwelling house of £300 in value or ownership of £1,500 worth of land, houses or real estate or tenancy for life of any property of an annual value of £120.

The executive functions of the Government are vested in the Governor and an Executive Council and, in respect of certain matters, an Executive Committee. In actual practice, nearly all the Executive Council's functions are discharged by the Executive Committee. The Executive Council consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General *ex officio*, and of such other persons as the Queen may appoint. The Executive Committee, which is created by local statute, consists of the members of the Executive Council *ex officio* together with one member of the Legislative Council and four members of the House of Assembly appointed by the Governor at the commencement of each session of the Legislature. The Executive Committee introduces all money votes, prepares the estimates and initiates all Government measures ; it is also responsible for the conduct of public works, and the control and management of Government property.

The House of Assembly has no Standing Committee of Finance and any application by the Governor-in-Executive Committee to approve expenditure which is not authorised by an Act or in the annual Estimates of the Colony, must be approved by resolution of the Legislature before expenditure can be incurred.

The principal departments of the administration are the Treasury, Customs, Income Tax and Death Duties, Education, Agriculture, Transport, Medical, Labour and Public Works Departments.

Local Government

The Island is administered as one unit except in respect of local government matters, which are in the hands of the Vestries and Parochial Boards of the eleven parishes. The Vestries are elected annually, and each Vestry appoints Commissioners of Highways, Commissioners of Health and Poor Law Guardians for the parish. The two last-named rely for revenue upon grants from the Vestry, but the Commissioners of Highways, who are responsible for the upkeep of all public highways in the parish not maintained by the Central Government, collect all vehicle and highway taxes, in addition to receiving grants-in-aid from the Central Government. The Vestries derive their revenue mainly from taxes on ownership and occupancy of land and houses and trade tax (*see* page 36). The rates for these are fixed annually so as to bring in sufficient revenue to meet the estimated expenditure for the year. The Vestries undertake the repair and maintenance of churches and church buildings and the Rector of each parish is *ex officio* chairman of its Vestry.

A recommendation by Sir John Maude, K.C.B., K.B.E., that the local government machine should be reorganised has been accepted in principle by the Barbados Government and the necessary amending legislation was being prepared in 1950.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The Companies Act (No. 7 of 1910) sets out the requirements necessary for the formation of companies and their registration.

Other Acts dealing with trade are :—

The Limited Partnership Act (No. 12 of 1913), which requires the registration of all such partnerships and forbids a limited partner from binding the firm or taking part in the management or administration of the firm.

The Partnership Act (No. 6 of 1926), which defines the powers and duties and relationships between partners not being companies registered under the Companies Act.

The Registration of Business Names Act (No. 6 of 1940), which requires every firm or individual having a place of business to register.

Acts dealing with taxation are :—

The *Income Tax Act* (No. 6 of 1921), which, in so far as it relates to companies fixes the rate of income tax at 7s. 6d. in the £ of assessable income. An amendment of the Act passed in 1948 includes provisions relating to relief from double taxation arising from the convention on the subject between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The *Package Tax Act* (No. 6 of 1941), which authorises the levy of a tax of sixpence on every package of goods liable for duty imported into the Island. For the purposes of the Act a " package " may include a given quantity of certain commodities which are usually not packed in packages but imported in bulk.

Trade Tariffs

Specific rates of duty are imposed whenever practicable, though in view of the Island's dependence upon imported food, the duty on foodstuffs is low, especially on those commodities consumed in large quantities.

Ad valorem duties range from 6 per cent. preferential to 30 per cent. general, but on most articles the rates are 10 per cent. preferential and 30 per cent. general. All rates, both specific and *ad valorem*, are subject to a surtax of 20 per cent. except those on articles named in the Trade Agreement of 1938 between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. *Ad valorem* duty is assessed on the factory cost of the item.

Exemption from the payment of customs duties is allowed on machinery and apparatus imported for use in the manufacture of sugar, rum, cotton, tobacco and for irrigation, etc. ; and in 1949 an Act was passed enabling the importation free of duty for a period of three years of articles manufactured from sea island cotton grown in the British West Indies. Exemption from duty is also allowed on fishing gear and on fresh fruit, firewood, charcoal, coconuts, lemon and lime juice (which mainly come from other parts of the British West Indies).

Labour

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act (No. 8 of 1938) and the *Recruiting of Workers Act* (No. 12 of 1938) brought into effect the provisions of the conventions of the International Labour Organisation, and the *Wages Board Act* (No. 25 of 1943) is an extension of a similar application, with additional provision for procedure and administration. No wages have been fixed under this Act so far, their determination being left to free negotiation between employers' associations and the trade unions.

The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Act (No. 6 of 1939) set up the machinery to be used in an endeavour to settle disputes that might arise or be apprehended between employers and workers in any industry. No regulations have been promulgated under this Act. The Labour Commissioner reports to the Governor any trade dispute whether existing or apprehended.

Digitized by Google

The Trade Union Act (No. 19 of 1939) and the *Workmen's Compensation Act* (No. 2 of 1943) follow the lines of the model Acts issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the exception that the former has at present no clauses permitting peaceful picketing.

Land Tenure

The laws, regulations and policy affecting land tenure are based on those of the United Kingdom prior to 1922. All land is held by freehold title and there is no Crown land.

Barbados was settled under Letters Patent granted by King Charles I to the Earl of Carlisle, and by 1638 the whole of the available arable acreage had been granted to some 800 persons. This land was held as a grant which contained the proviso that on failure to pay dues the grant would revert to the Earl. In the early years very little attention was paid to the question of title but several Acts were passed later terminating in the *Property and Conveyancing Act* (No. 11 of 1891) which enforced the registration of title deeds. Thus there grew up a system of absolute freehold ownership, and under this system there are some 378 plantations covering 52,000 arable acres. In addition there are some 16,000 arable acres owned by 18,000 peasant proprietors.

Under the *Landlord and Tenant Act* (No. 2 of 1897) one month's notice to quit is required, and the landlord may distrain on cattle, stock or ground provisions for arrears of rent after appraisal.

Immigration

The main Acts are :—

The Immigration of Paupers (Prevention) Act (No. 8 of 1909).

The Passports Act (No. 7 of 1932).

The Aliens' Restriction Act (No. 15 of 1939).

The first was designed to prevent the entry into the Island of persons likely to become a charge on public funds. The third empowers the Governor to prevent the landing or to expel after landing any alien who may be considered to be undesirable.

Transport and Communications

Internal

There are no internal rail, water or air communications. The island, however, is well supplied with roads, having 546 miles of road of which 347 are oil-emulsion surfaced. Practically the whole island is accessible to motor traffic.

The Department of Highways and Transport is responsible for the maintenance of the main highways and the control of public transport and road traffic. The upkeep of the remaining roads is still the responsibility of the Vestries of the parishes in which they lie.

It is estimated that there are in Barbados approximately 4,000 motor cars, 150 motor buses, 800 lorries and trucks, 14,000 bicycles, 50 motor bicycles, 2,000 carts and 100 horse drawn vehicles.

With a population of approximately 1,200 to the square mile the maintenance of road communications throughout the island is more akin to an urban than a rural problem. The city of Bridgetown and its suburbs are served by omnibuses running at frequent intervals and at moderate fares, while country districts are provided with a daily service. There are some 150 omnibuses operating in the island on routes approved by the Director of Highways and Transport. These services are run by 16 private owners who get concessions for this purpose.

All parts of the island are connected by a telephone service operated by a private company. There is an automatic central exchange in Bridgetown. There are about 3,000 exchange lines, 3,600 stations and eight private branch exchanges and a total wire mileage of about 13,000 miles.

External

The island is an important centre for both cable and radio communication, being the junction point of several cables as well as the site of a large modern wireless installation of great range, established by Cable and Wireless Limited. The company has also recently established in the island large long-range wireless installations which, with its previously established wireless coast station, are operated in conjunction with the cable system and provide services with many parts of the world and with a number of other West Indian islands which are not connected by cable, and with ships at sea. There is also a wireless telephone service.

The British West Indian Airways, Ltd., is the only air line operating regularly, but visits are sometimes paid by other non-scheduled flights for specific purposes, including Pan American Airways, K.L.M. and Nationwide Airways. Seawell Airfield about 10 miles east of Bridgetown is the only landing field. The construction of a new runway 6,000 feet by 150 feet was recently completed.

Barbados has no harbour. Bridgetown is the only port of entry. Ocean-going vessels anchor in Carlisle Bay which is an open roadstead capable of accommodating a very large number of vessels.

The Careenage can accommodate small vessels and schooners whose length does not exceed 200 feet and whose draught does not exceed 14½ feet.

Cargo is landed from ships in Carlisle Bay by means of lighters operating from the Careenage. There are 95 lighters of capacity from 8–45 tons which are owned by private companies.

Small craft, schooners and lighters discharge cargo on the wharf in the Careenage.

Plans for the construction of a deep harbour are under consideration.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The area of Barbados is 106,470 acres (there is no Crown land in Barbados, the whole area having been alienated ; ownership is by freehold title). Of the total agricultural (arable and pasture) land in the island, estimated at 94,346 acres, slightly over 80 per cent. is held by estates (i.e., holdings over 10 acres) and the remainder by peasants. The number and acreage of estates and peasant holdings are estimated as :—

ESTATES AND PEASANT HOLDINGS—NUMBERS AND ACREAGE

	Number		*Acres*	
" Estates " (over 10 acres)		336		77,063
Peasant holdings 1–10 acres	4,237		7,072	
Holdings ⅛–1 acre	23,282		10,011	
*Under ⅛ acre	3,132	30,752	200	17,283†
Total		31,088		94,346

* As defined in the West Indian census, 1946, as small plots.
† Total area shown as peasants' holdings includes some 4,300 acres rented from the estates.

The estates are for the most part owned by individuals or families resident in the Colony, but a number are owned by absentee proprietors and a number by companies.

Of the peasant holdings of from ⅛–10 acres (i.e., excluding small plots) over 80 per cent. are estimated to be under 1 acre and only 2 per cent. as large as 3 acres or over.

Digitized by Google

The average size of all holdings in this class is 1·7 acres. One of a number of surveys undertaken by the Department of Agriculture since 1945 showed that of peasant holdings of 1–10 acres some two-thirds of the total were owned by peasants and one-third was rented. Another such survey covering 80 per cent. of these 1–10 acre holdings revealed that 80 per cent. of these peasant farmers were only part-time cultivators depending on employment on the estates or in trade or other pursuits to supplement their income. (It can be assumed that practically all peasants on holdings under 1 acre were only part-time farmers.) The results of these surveys were very similar to an analysis made by Dr. Benham based on a 1943 survey. On the basis of these surveys it is estimated that of the total 30,752 occupiers of peasant holdings and small plots less than 3 per cent. were whole time cultivators.

The land utilisation on estate and peasant holdings has been estimated as follows :—

ESTATE AND PEASANT HOLDINGS—LAND UTILISATION

	Estate holdings		*Peasant holdings*	
	Acres		*Acres*	
Uncultivated				
Pasture	17,000		1,683	
Woodland	1,500		—	
Waste, yards, etc.	5,683		1,600	
		24,183		3,283
Arable				
In cane	33,000		7,700	
In other crops	—		5,600*	
Thrown out and preparation land	19,880		700†	
		52,880		14,000
		77,063		17,283

* Mainly food and fodder crops (also cotton).
† In fallow and fruit.

The economy of Barbados is centred on sugar and its products which constitute 95 per cent. of the Colony's total exports. Barbados has been a one-crop economy of this type for over 300 years. Approximately 60 per cent. of the Island's total arable land is under cane and a large amount of the remainder is in food and fodder crops. From 65–90 per cent. of the total cane is produced by the estates, the remainder by peasant farmers. The estates largely confine their production to cane while cane is also the principal crop on peasant holdings. Land resting from cane is usually used for growing food and fodder. Both planters and peasant farmers keep some livestock. The two cash, or more strictly speaking, export crops are sugar and cotton, the latter being relatively minor.

The estates generally have attained a high standard of efficiency in the cultivation and harvesting of sugar cane. Although there are obvious advantages in the exclusive concentration on the growing of sugar cane, for which the soil and climate are well suited, there are some disadvantages from the point of view of the Colony. The 24,182 acres of pasture, woodland and waste land on the estates represents more than all the land occupied by the 30,000 peasant families on the island. A large area of the sour grass pasture is, of course, growing on land unsuited for other purposes. There are, however, areas of sour grass which might be better employed than supplying only mulching material once a year or some bedding for stock.

The proportion of arable land " thrown out " and " in preparation " on estates also appears high. While topography and climate can be limiting factors, the use of preparation land is governed to a great extent by the speed with which stumps of cane, etc., can be removed and the ground prepared for other crops. As more tractors become available it is hoped that this process will be speeded up.

It has been suggested that estates could support more livestock than they now carry and the practicability of mixed farming on estates is now under investigation by the Department of Agriculture. It might be possible in some cases to promote improved land use on estates by extending or resettling tenantries.

Any reduction of the area devoted to sugar cane on the estates must, generally speaking, be compensated for by increased yields per acre. Yield has, in fact, been increasing in recent years as a result of new varieties and the application of improved methods of cultivation and manuring and this may release land for other purposes.

Apart from the predominating system represented by the peasant cane growers (where cane is the main crop combined with some food and fodder crops and some livestock) which is found on 80 per cent. of all peasant holdings, other minor systems of peasant agriculture can be distinguished. There is the rainy season annual crops system usually only found in the drier areas, where peasant crops grown include peanuts, tobacco, cotton, shallots and vegetables. Most peasants growing these crops also keep a few sheep. In the vicinity of Bridgetown can be found the specialised town dairy. Another system is the intensive growing of vegetables under irrigation. There are a number of peasants with a ½ acre holding endeavouring to make a living in this way, sometimes with outstanding success.

The relative inefficiency of peasant farming as compared with estates is largely due to the small size and scattered nature of peasant holdings. The scarcity of land precludes the possibility of increasing the average size of holdings very much, since, to raise the size of 20,000 holdings from ½ acre to the average necessary for a self-supporting holding would absorb at least 100,000 acres or practically the whole area of the island. The possibilities of irrigation on holdings in the " sheet-water " area (estimated at about 35–40 per cent. of total number of peasant holdings) have been indicated by the survey of the Barbados subterranean water resources carried out by Dr. Senn. Some 4,000 acres of peasant occupied arable land lies in this area but all of this may not be suitable for irrigation. It is estimated that there were 140 acres of peasant land under irrigation in 1947 and this area has since been extended. The Department of Agriculture gives assistance in the installation of pumping units and financial aid is being given by the Peasants' Loan Bank and from Colonial Development and Welfare grants. A simple overhead irrigation unit based on a ¾ H.P. gasoline engine driven centrifugal pump on an existing well can irrigate a ½ acre garden at one time. By early 1949, 43 units had been erected on peasant plots under this scheme. It seems probable that irrigation can bring peasants on holdings of ½ acre and over, in irrigable areas, within reach of being self-supporting. This, however, calls for skill and sustained hard work.

Erosion has not been a major problem in Barbados owing to the fact that sugar-cane, especially under the cane-hole system, is one of the crops least conducive to erosion, and because most planters for generations have worked on the principle of putting back into the land at least as

Digitized by Google

much as they got out of it. Nevertheless, even on well-managed estates the need for conservation methods of cultivation is evident especially with the advent of mechanisation, and already the more progressive estate owners and managers are going in for contour cultivation and planting.

There is in Barbados, however, the ever-increasing eroded and denuded area of the Scotland district. Denudation, already evident on some 4,000 acres, is undoubtedly spreading, particularly through the peasant-controlled areas to the north and south of the Scotland district, for example in Boscobel, Grave Yard and other places in St. Lucy, and in Society, Sealy Hall and other places in St. John. Conservation measures are urgently required in these areas. The Agricultural Department, through its Advisory and Peasant Agricultural Extension Services, has made a start on the problem of preventing the spread of erosion on the estates and peasant holdings in the Scotland district and throughout the Island.

Local Food Products

Food crops grown for local consumption consist mainly of yams, eddoes, cassava, sweet potatoes and corn. During the war regulations were in force requiring all planters and smallholders to plant a certain minimum percentage of their arable acreage in food crops, and planters were also required to hold a minimum number of livestock. In 1943–4 some 16,800 acres of estate land were devoted to local food crops. Maximum prices ex-field and retail for these foodstuffs were fixed by the government.

Most local foodstuffs are sold by peasants to middlemen known as hawkers or hucksters. Crops are usually sold in the field, the hawker doing the picking. Vegetables are sold mainly by the hole (unit of 5 feet by 5 feet). There is often a chain of intermediaries involved. The number of hawkers' licences (most of which are concerned with agricultural produce) is around 5,000.

Barbados has fairly extensive areas of sour grass pastures, which are often on rocky land useless for other purposes. Sour grass is used for stock-feed, as litter in stock pens and for mulching sugar cane fields. Most peasant farmers keep some livestock, as do most estates. A sample survey carried out by the Department of Agriculture in 1945–6 showed that of peasants on holdings of 1–10 acres, 80 per cent. kept some livestock.

A survey in 1945–6 showed that peasants on holdings of 1–10 acres kept on an average 4·3 head per holding (or 2 head per acre) and the larger the holding the lower the number of head of stock kept per acre. The Census of 1946 showed that the number of livestock kept by peasants on holdings under 1 acre was 2·3 per holding (or 3·5 per acre). Peasants with the smallest holdings kept relatively most stock.

The numbers of livestock recorded at the Census of 1946 were :—

LIVESTOCK

	Peasants (Up to 10 acres)	*Estates (Over 10 acres)*	*Total*
Cattle	8,117	6,933	15,050
Goats and Kids	14,409	1,690	16,099
Sheep and lambs	29,236	4,208	33,444
Pigs	20,142	4,225	24,367
Horses, mules, donkeys ..	1,047	4,773	5,820

Cash Crops

Sugar

The acreage of sugar-cane reaped for a series of years is shown below :—

SUGAR CANE ACREAGES

	Plantations						*Small holdings (estimated)*	*Total*
Year	*Plant Canes*	*First Ratoons*	*Second Ratoons*	*Third Ratoons*	*Fourth Ratoons*	*Fifth Ratoons*		
1939 ..	16,571	11,507	5,337	995	122	Nil	7,000	41,532
1946 ..	14,056	11,614	5,578	1,817	51	6	7,000	40,124
1947 ..	13,365	11,569	6,501	1,771	257	2	7,000	40,466
1948 ..	13,481	10,614	6,281	2,127	255	28	7,000	39,786
1949 ..	13,869	10,911	5,250	2,091	370	33	7,000	39,705
1950 ..	13,436	11,786	6,351	2,148	415	53	7,000	41,241

The following table shows the production of cane by peasants and estates and estimated yields per acre. (The estimates of peasants' yields can only be considered approximate owing to the lack of exact information on the total acreage reaped.)

PRODUCTION OF CANE

	Estates	*Peasants*	*Total*	*Peasants Production as per centage of total*	*Yield per reaped acre*	
					Estates tons cane per acre	*Peasants tons cane per acre* (estimate)*
	tons	*tons*	*tons*			
1940	791,731	101,294	893,025	11·35	22·80	14·47
1946	946,345	158,537	1,104,882	14·35	28·57	22·65
1947	866,662	122,443	989,105	12·38	25·89	17·49
1948	641,044	77,211	718,255	10·75	19·50	11·03
1949	1,122,072	184,524	1,306,596	14·12	34·31	26·36
1950	1,118,003	198,903	1,316,906	15·04	32·65	28·41

* Based on estimated acreage of 7,000.

Digitized by Google

Yields per acre vary in different years largely as a result of varying seasonal conditions. Peasants' yields are, however, consistently below those of the estates.

Preparation of land on the estates is gradually being mechanised. In general, planting of cane in Barbados on plantations and small holdings is still done in cane holes rather than in continuous furrows as in most other countries, but some of the progressive estates are adopting contour furrow cultivation and planting in furrows. One advantage claimed for the cane hole system is that it provides a simple measurement of work done, payment being made by the " number of holes ". The cutting of cane on the estates is highly organised, the men working in teams and the cane being loaded into waiting trucks largely by women, for transport to the factory. The harvesting of cane and the manufacture of sugar are confined to the dry season extending from mid-January to late May. The number employed in the industry varies as between the crop and the out-of-crop seasons. The average numbers regularly employed by the estates " in crop " was 13,064 and in the sugar factories 3,278 in 1949.

There are also a considerable number of peasant cultivators. The 1946 census records some 21,000 persons as engaged in sugar planting.

Cultivation on peasant holdings is practically all done by hand. Some ploughing is done by the estates for peasants on a contract system but there has been no development of co-operative organisations amongst peasants for the creation of farm machinery pools. Apart from the question of finance, the small and scattered nature of many peasant holdings makes the adoption of mechanical methods difficult. Most peasants hire casual labour for cutting and since this is casual work they usually have to pay higher rates than the estates. They either arrange for transport of their cane to the factory in the factories' lorries or by private contractors. Some cut their own cane and transport it by mule cart. As already indicated, the majority of peasant farmers usually spend part of their time working on the estates, the return from their holdings being insufficient to support even a subsistence standard.

Formerly each plantation had its own factory, but the better recovery in modern steam-mills resulted in the abandonment of the windmill plants. Many estates now supply cane to central factories. The association of estates and factories, however, is still a close one in many cases.

Peasants sell their cane crop direct to the factories by private arrangement. There is no legislation fixing the minimum price to be paid for cane. The price paid to peasants for cane varies from factory to factory, depending on export prices and other receipts, on manufacturing costs and on factory performance.

The typical sugar factory is small compared with those of most other countries, capacity ranging from approximately 2,000 tons of sugar in the small vacuum-pan plants to 13,000 in the largest. The present total capacity of these factories is more than 150,000 tons sugar in a reaping season of about 4½ months. Barbados is one of the last strongholds of the factory owned individually or by a small company. There are now 24 vacuum-pan factories (the number having fallen by seven since 1939), two muscovado factories and 12 molasses plants. The number of tons of cane required to make one ton of sugar or its equivalent (generally considered as one indication of factory efficiency although it may be affected by the type of cane and other factors) varies slightly from year to year but is usually between eight and nine.

Total production of sugar and the sugar equivalent of fancy molasses for a series of years is shown below :—

SUGAR PRODUCTION

	Tons					
	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Vacuum Pan Sugar	133,296	111,933	36,368	56,496	133,868	141,706
Muscovado	2,961	1,377	1,656	1,262	1,991	1,276
Fancy Molasses	20,186	20,410	23,208	20,468	16,872	15,201
	156,443	133,720	111,232	78,226	152,731	158,183

Local consumption in this period ranged from 7,000–9,000 tons per annum.

The total exportable surplus of sugar is sold under contract to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food (for details of these arrangements *see* Appendix, page 273).

The contribution of £2 15s. 0d. per ton towards the special funds (Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Labour Welfare) in the case of Barbados is based on production of sugar and sugar equivalent of molasses, not on exports.

Exports of sugar and molasses for a series of years have been :—

	Exports of Sugar	
	Tons	$'000s
1940	59,897	3,111
1941	66,537	4,036
1942	60,956	4,063
1943	115,902	7,191
1944	94,531	6,320
1945	100,135	7,626
1946	98,118	8,590
1947	82,461	9,020
1948	49,652	5,771
1949	126,609	15,715
1950	131,743	18,567
	Exports of Molasses	
	'000 *Gallons*	$'000s
1940	10,078	3,808
1941	8,639	3,466
1942	1,648	709
1943	4,364	1,721
1944	7,824	3,544
1945	8,235	3,646
1946	6,868	3,769
1947	7,887	5,507
1948	6,561	5,050
1949	6,144	3,275
1950	8,835	5,166

The export of sugar is regulated by the Sugar Production and Export Control Board which was set up originally in connection with the International Sugar Agreement in 1937. This Board also collects the levy for the Special Funds referred to above. A Sugar Industry Capital Rehabilitation Board is empowered to make payments from the Rehabilitation Fund to manufacturers of sugar and molasses and to growers to defray expenditure in respect of renewals and improvements of factory machinery.

The export of fancy molasses is regulated by the fancy molasses Control and Marketing Board. Since exporters are middlemen, the price to producer is fixed annually by legislation on the recommendation of the Board. Quantities exported to all markets are allocated by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food. Canada is the principal

Digitized by Google

market for this product. Most of the vacuum pan molasses, which is a by-product of the manufacture of sugar, is absorbed locally, mainly by the rum distilleries. A committee of producers advises the controller of supplies from time to time as to quantities available for export after local demands have been met.

The marketing of rum manufactured by the three distilleries is handled by the exporters themselves. The two main markets for rum are the United Kingdom and the other West Indian territories.

The average f.o.b. prices for rum and fancy molasses were :—

RUM AND FANCY MOLASSES PRICES

	Rum	*Molasses*
	Average f.o.b. price per gallon	*Average f.o.b. price per gallon†*
	s. d.	s. d.
1939	1 10½	1 0½
1946	4 2	2 3
1947	4 2 to 5 2½*	2 10⅞
1948	9 0	3 0½
1949	8 4	2 3

* Price changed in second half of year.
† Average over all molasses exports, most of which are fancy molasses.

All cotton is sold directly by growers to the only ginnery in the Colony, the Barbados Cotton Factory Limited. The factory sells the lint to the United Kingdom Raw Cotton Commission, the f.o.b. prices paid for top-grade in recent years being :—

	Per lb.
1948–49	50d.
1949–50	48d.
1950–51	60d.

The increase in acreage under cotton in 1949 was a result of the improvement in the price paid by the Raw Cotton Commission in that year. The cotton factory also produces cotton seed oil as a by-product which it sells mainly to local merchants and to a local company manufacturing soaps and margarine.

Lint recovery generally works out at about 27 per cent. About three-quarters of the crop is produced by peasants. Average yields of peasants' holdings and estates were :—

COTTON—AVERAGE YIELDS

	Estates			*Peasants*		
	Acres	*Lb. seed cotton*	*Lb. yield per acre*	*Acres*	*Lb. seed cotton*	*Lb. yield per acre*
1947–48 ..	35	18,154	518	102·5	27,237	265
1948–49 ..	140	45,319	323	581	175,797	302

The value of the cotton crop for a series of years has been as follows :—

COTTON CROPS—VALUES

Year	*Cotton shipped**		*F.O.B. Value of Lint*	*Approximate Value of Seed†*	*Total Value*
	Bales	*Lb.*	$	$	$
1939	5	2,370	1,137	63	1,201
1940	25	13,783	8,269	369	8,639
1941	81	45,527	22,763	1,524	24,288
1942	190	106,933	53,299	5,585	58,885
1943	102	56,640	31,718	3,034	34,752
1944	113	61,557	34,471	3,710	38,182
1945	43	23,239	13,943	1,401	15,344
1946	19	9,848	5,908	594	6,503
1947	26	13,902	8,110	931	9,041
1948	22	12,084	10,117	809	10,926
1949	104	58,066	57,644	3,888	61,532

* Not always the same as figures in export table on page 40.
† This is ground locally and the oil consumed in Barbados.

Cotton

Sea island cotton has been cultivated in Barbados for many years, but the area and production in recent years has been negligible, as the following figures indicate.

TOTAL AREA AND YIELD OF ESTATES' AND PEASANTS' COTTON

Year	*Total area planted (acres)*	*Total yield of Seed Cotton (lb.)*	*Average yield per acre (lb.)*
1939–40	120	55,131	459
1940–41	453	179,155	395
1941–42	1,142	402,216	352
1942–43	648	212,682	328
1943–44	905	227,188	251
1944–45	324	89,608	276
1945–46	150	37,002	246
1946–47	125	52,690	421
1947–48	137	45,391	331
1948–49	721	221,116	306
1949–50	386	129,472	335

Forestry

There are 46 acres of forest all preserved by law, but of no commercial value.

Fisheries

As the waters inshore have been intensively fished the fishing fleet has been forced to extend its area of operation and now works within a limit of approximately 18 miles from shore. The principal fish caught is the flying fish (*Hirundichthys speculiger*), the season for which is usually from November to July. There is also some deep sea fishing done at the end of the season on certain well defined banks. The principal deep sea fish caught are red schnapper (*Lutiamus campechanus*), bream (*Etelis oculatus*) and kingfish (*Sierra cavalla*). Fish traps and pots are also used around the sheltered coves and between September and April sea-egg (*Echinus esculentus*) is much sought after for the local market. All fish is sold locally and there are also substantial imports of dried, smoked and salted fish.

Digitized by Google

The total annual value of the island's fisheries is estimated as follows :—

	$000s
Flying fish industry	816·0
Pot fish	14·4
Sea-egg	24·0
Deep-sea	12·0
Turtle	4·8
	871·2

Prior to 1940 the Government took little interest in the industry, apart from imposing a few restrictions for conservational purposes. The fishing industry was left in the hands of poorer peasants who through lack of capital were forced to use ill-equipped boats and antiquated methods, and as the nearer waters became overfished, catches declined.

Although there is not a large resident fish population around Barbados it is generally agreed that catches could be improved if better equipment were available, enabling boats to venture further afield. The Government took steps towards making the industry more efficient during the war by appointing a Fishery Officer, and instituting a loan scheme to enable fishermen to get better equipment. In 1948 a new Fishery Comprehensive Scheme was introduced as part of the Colony's Ten Year Plan. This scheme made provision for the maintenance and development of fisheries and for improvements in the marketing and distribution of fish. In addition to the loan scheme an insurance system has been introduced and a Fishery Experimental Station has been set up. A Bendix Supersonic Depth Recorder has been purchased for research work in local waters. Improvements have also been made in hauling facilities at certain beaches, beach shelters erected and in some cases small marketing centres set up near beaches. A fish market was opened at Oistins in mid-1950 and it is proposed to erect a large market at Speightstown.

Minerals

Manjak is found in small deposits of good quality but their development is not considered to be an economic proposition. Small quantities of petroleum have been produced in Barbados since the end of the last century. Total production from 1920 to 1948 was only 137,000 barrels and the total expenditure in this period on drilling, production, etc., greatly exceeded the value of the oil won. In the last 10 years the maximum output reached was approximately 2,600 barrels in 1940, since which time production has fallen away to negligible quantities. Before the war a geological survey was carried out from which it was concluded that there was nothing to be gained by further drilling in the deposits worked up to then but that new sources of oil might be located by deep drilling. Hitherto no well had been drilled deeper than 4,000 feet. Deep drilling could not be undertaken during the war but recently arrangements have been made which will enable such drilling to be undertaken. The Petroleum Act, which was passed in 1950, vested the oil rights of the Island in the Governor-in-Executive-Committee and gave a 25 per cent. share of the royalties receivable to the landowners who were the previous owners of the mineral rights.

There is at present a well producing natural gas which is used for public purposes.

As far as is known there are no other minerals in the island.

Manufactures

The manufacture of sugar and molasses is the Colony's main "secondary" industry, employing approximately 2,000 persons (*see* page 24). There are also three rum refineries employing about 200 persons, the output of which in recent years has ranged between one and two million wine gallons a year.

There are two foundries engaged in the main in fabricating, repairing and replacement of sugar factory machinery as well as the repair of small steamships and schooners. Repair facilities include arc and acetylene welding and casting of half a ton in one case and one ton in the other ; they employ approximately 150 persons each. Under the West Indies Fats and Oil Agreement, Barbados imports copra from other West Indian islands for the manufacture of margarine, fats, edible oils and soap for the local market and export to other British West Indian territories. (See Appendix, page 274.) Other factories which are engaged mainly in manufacture for local consumption are :—

2 Ice factories.

1 Bay Rum factory.

1 Cigarette factory (imported tobacco).

1 Steam Cooperage.

6 Bottling factories.

1 Cotton ginnery and pilot spinning plant.

2 Biscuit factories.

1 Lime works.

Village Industries

There is a small industry making rough pottery at Chalky Mount but it is of little economic importance. There are no organised craft societies although crafts based on the use of West Indian material are taught in Government schools and institutions. Barbadians are highly skilled in embroidery.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Trade

The number of tourists visiting the island was estimated at 6,250 in 1947 and 6,900 in 1948 (excluding those in transit). Hotel accommodation is adequate. There are 26 hotels, residential clubs and guest houses catering for tourists.

Distributive Trade

Goods coming into the island are largely ordered by Commission Agents. Distribution is through wholesalers and retailers but frequently the retailer is also the wholesaler. The main distributive centre is in Bridgetown; while the poorer people from the country buy their food supplies at their local retailers, they go to Bridgetown for other purchases.

Meat and fish are to some extent sold from markets established in Bridgetown by the Government ; but in the former case, in the country districts, any owner of an animal may kill it and dispose of the meat by direct purchase to neighbouring customers. Fish is more often sold to regular hawkers that meet the incoming craft. Locally grown food crops are usually hawked (*see* page 29).

Professions

The numbers engaged in these are :—

Doctors	40
Dentists	18
Nurses	443
Lawyers	29
Teachers	884
Architects	3
Chemists	27
Civil Engineers	5
Mechanical Engineers	3

Professional standards are those of the United Kingdom except for the majority of nurses and teachers who are locally trained.

Digitized by Google

Co-operative Movement

Co-operative ventures in the past have been isolated efforts and it was only in 1949 that a small organised co-operative " movement " came into being. Most of the co-operative schemes in the past ended in failure largely because of faulty organisation and lack of experienced guidance. The three most important of these were the Agricultural Credit Societies, the Barbados Co-operative Produce Marketing Association and the Chalky Mount Arrowroot Growers Association.

The Credit Societies were set up with Government sponsorship with the idea of providing credit for peasant farmers in the same way as was provided for the estates by the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank. Societies were organised with unlimited liability. Failure was probably due to neglect to provide training in co-operative organisation, the frightening effect of the term " unlimited liability " and the easing of normal credit facilities after 1931, together with the establishment of the Peasants' Loan Bank in 1936.

The Produce Marketing Association also sponsored by the Government and set up shortly after 1930 wound up after six years due to lack of organisation and education in co-operative principles, inadequacy of storage facilities and the low salaries paid to responsible staff.

The Chalky Mount Arrowroot Growers Association was formed as a result of a Government offer to assist in the building of a processing factory provided such an association was formed. The factory processed starch from 1938 to 1941 but after making losses for four years closed down in 1948 and the Association ceased to function. Failure is ascribed to the absence of a genuine co-operative spirit, the lack of a guarantee of adequate supplies from producers and the fact that too narrow a margin was allowed for processing costs.

There are four main co-operative societies whose interests include pig-raising, pork butchery, cane-marketing, purchase of stock feed and fertilisers, sales of consumer goods and the making of loans to producers for improvements. The resources of the societies are still meagre, the total at mid-1949 (instalment shares, small deposits and entrance fees) being not more than £135. Turnover for the year ended 31st August, 1949, was approximately £950. There is also a large number of buying groups which cannot strictly be classed as real co-operatives. These consist of a number of peasants or groups of peasants who combine in order to purchase fertilisers, etc., in bulk.

Employment and Labour Supply

With a population of 1,250 to the square mile and a practically entirely agricultural economy, the main problem in Barbados is one of creating employment opportunities for the increasing population. Unemployment and underemployment are always high and this is intensified by the seasonal nature of the demand for labour in the island's chief industry, sugar production.

In the past and during the war there was considerable migration of seasonal workers (*see* page 23) but opportunities for this have been limited in recent years. Recruitment for seasonal work abroad is carried out by the Labour Department and for work in Curaçao and Aruba and in the Canadian Steamship lines by licensed local agents. Agreements are drawn up in observance of International Labour Organisation Conventions. In the case of the workers taking up contract employment in the United States compulsory savings are deducted from earnings and made available on the workers' return.

The numbers employed in the principal undertakings each quarter in 1949 were :—

PRINCIPAL UNDERTAKINGS—NUMBERS EMPLOYED

	No. of undertakings	*No. of returns*	1949			
			Jan.	*April*	*Sept.*	*Dec.*
Coopers Building and Shipping	18	15	179	236	224	178
Minor Industries	22	15	782	710	583	602
Sugar and Syrup Factories	36	31	1,242	2,456	907	1,120
Sugar and Lumber Porters	39	33	262	438	417	340
Lightermen	8	8	384	374	457	461
Steamer Warehouse Porters	3	2	465	223	386	293
Stevedores	3	2	72	265	208	87

The wage rates for selected occupations in Barbados in 1948 and the hours worked are shown below.

WAGE RATES

Agriculture	*Men*	*Women*	*Hours worked*
Sugar Cane Cultivation	17½c. per hour	12c. per hour	40
Reaping ..	57½c. per ton		

A 6 per cent. bonus was also paid on wages earned in the sugar industry, January–June, 1949.

There were 13,064 persons regularly employed on the sugar estates and 3,278 in the sugar factories in the crop season of 1949; average earnings for the season (January–June) were $111 on the estates and $275 in the factories.

Sugar Factories

Crop time	Varies according to factory, workers being paid at so much a ton of sugar or puncheon of syrup manufactured.	Not regulated
Out of crop time ..	21–24 c. per hour 14–20 c. „ „ } +32% 12–14 c. „ „	45 45 45
Coopers	Piece rates	44
Stevedores ..	$3·84 per day ..	44
Foundry men (senior) ..	38 c. per hour + 6 c. per hour C.O.L.	45
Bakers	$6·6 per week (men) $9·0 „ „ (oven-men)	48 48
Shop assistants ..	$25–100 per month (according to grade)	44
Domestic servants	.. .. ..	Not regulated
House maid ..	$1·92–2·40 per week (with meals)	
Cook	$2·4 –3·48 „ „ „ „	
Gardener ..	$2·4 –2·88.	
Government Employees	Labourer 18c. per hour + C.O.L. allowance. Stores assistants, 20–24c. per hour + C.O.L. allowance. Fitter mechanics (1st class), 30–38c. per hour + C.O.L. allowance.	

Maximum and minimum earnings in the same industry vary widely (*see* page 34) due to the variation in the number of hours worked in a week at different times. There is much less time worked in the sugar industry in the second

Digitized by Google

half of the year (the out of crop season) than the first half.

	Highest average week's earnings (One week of month†) Males	*Lowest average week's earnings (One week of month†) Males*
	$	$
Sugar factories	25·15	1·60
Coopers ..	31·47	0·81
Stevedores ..	20·48	3·16

† The month is a different one.

Fuel and Power and Water

Electric power is supplied to most parts of the island by a private company. Its diesel plant has a generating capacity of 2,500 K.V.A. and distributes power at 3,300 and 11,000 volts. Domestic and low tension supply is at 110 volts, 50 cycles, A.C., and power supply generally at 208 volts 2- and 3-phase. There were 7,751 consumers at the end of 1948. Trade power is 4d. per unit, advertising power 6d. per unit, with a 20 per cent. surcharge.

Gas is supplied by a small private company to a limited area of Bridgetown. The gas is natural gas obtained from an oil well, and comprises 89 per cent. methane, 10 per cent. ethane and 1 per cent. inert gas and has a calorific value of 1000 B.T.U. per cu. ft. Supply is now 250,000 cu. ft. but could be doubled. It is used only for domestic purposes.

Water supplies, which are the responsibility of the Waterworks Department, are adequate in most parts of the Island except in times of severe drought. There are over 650 miles of main pipes. At the end of 1948 there were 726 standpipes from which local people obtained a free water supply and a further 7,000 premises had laid-on-water supply. It is proposed to improve pumping facilities and distribution at an estimated cost of approximately £370,000, to allow for the eventual doubling of the present consumption of 4 million gallons per year. All water supplies are chlorinated.

No part of the island has a sewerage system.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The revenue and expenditure of the Government since 1938–9 have been :—

GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year	*Revenue*		*Expenditure*	
	£		£	
1938–39	559,484		560,038	
1939–40	611,831		627,774	
1940–41	690,324		818,760	
1941–42	819,074		660,982	
1942–43	804,404		755,415	
1943–44	942,271		873,769	
1944–45	1,147,060		1,008,257	
1945–46	1,529,544		1,144,650	
1946–47	1,695,767		1,415,941	
1947–48	1,926,413	($9,246,783)	1,725,926	($8,284,444)
1948–49		$9,290,357		$9,845,828
1949–50 revised estimate		$9,475,848		$9,880,150
1950–51 estimate		$9,684,983		$9,625,835

The main sources of revenue and the pattern of expenditure since 1947–48 are shown below :

REVENUE

Head of Revenue	1947–48 $ *actual*		1948–49 $ *actual*		1949–50 $ *(revised estimate)*		1950–51 $ *(estimate)*	
1. *Customs and Excise*								
Import Duties	3,264,398		2,955,989		NA		2,850,000	
Additional Import Duties							320,000	
Excise (rum)	830,817		781,795		NA		860,000	
Tax on Motor Spirit and Diesel Oil	530,818		522,957		NA		590,000	
Purchase Tax	176,504		169,493		NA		180,000	
Licence Duty (rum)	22,271		20,433		NA		22,000	
		4,824,804		4,450,667		4,772,200		4,822,000
2. *Taxation*								
Income Tax	2,849,944		2,988,013		NA		3,250,000	
Succession Tax	70,968		234,465		NA		210,000	
Stamp Duties	41,658		49,656		NA		50,000	
		2,962,570		3,272,132		3,105,000		3,510,000
3. Licences		145,253		136,448		82,309		106,027
Fines		21,040		19,513		18,000		18,600
Rents and Royalties		21,546		19,515		37,721		35,660
Interest and Redemption		70,778		79,296		72,305		54,509
Net Revenue from Government Commercial Undertakings ..		—		—		27,286		82,423
Revenue from Government Departments		1,096,796		1,225,873		864,280		964,679
Special Receipts		103,995		86,911		546,747		91,085
		9,246,783		9,290,357		9,475,848		9,684,983

Changes have been made in the method of presenting these figures since 1948–49 due to the introduction of a separate capital budget and to the inclusion of *net* revenue from Government commercial undertakings in place of the separate revenue and expenditure figures formerly supplied.

Digitized by Google

EXPENDITURE

Head of Expenditure	1947–48 $ *actual*		1948–49 $ *actual*		1949–50 $ *(revised estimate)*		1950–51 $ *(estimate)*	
Debt charges		158,140		158,140		158,160		158,160
Pensions		249,039		316,942		420,000		411,204
Administration*		489,785		569,562		822,680		793,975
Agriculture		159,865		192,611		230,780		296,654
Communications								
Post Office	262,090		283,651		—		—	
Highways and Transport	657,528		739,873		690,000		646,974	
Airport	12,828		16,784		30,370		32,336	
		932,446		1,040,314		720,370		679,310
Public Works								
Waterworks	390,788		608,593		556,700		653,118	
Public Works	130,840		125,511		168,300		184,688	
Public Works Extraordinary	11,080		203		—		—	
		532,708		734,307		725,000		837,806
Education		1,016,850		1,159,730		1,460,000		1,638,580
Old Age Pensions		261,045		265,583		460,000		459,200
Medical		702,969		806,401		870,240		1,076,633
Law and Order		856,867		883,676		977,000		1,132,128
Food Subsidies		1,091,932		1,289,025		†1,200,000		1,114,000
C.O.L. Allowances		461,716		—		—		—
Arrears of Salaries		—		—		880,000		—
Miscellaneous		1,371,280		2,429,537		705,920		928,185
Contributions to capital estimates		—		—		250,000		100,000
Total		8,284,444		9,845,828		9,880,150		9,625,835

* Administration includes expenditure under the following leads—Governor, Auditor General, Colonial Treasurer, Colonial Secretary, Harbour Master, Customs, Registrar, Legislature, Income Tax Department, Labour Department.

† This item includes cost of full control and C.O.L. allowances, no *revised* estimate of food subsidies alone being available at time of writing (the *approved* estimate for food subsidies alone was $1,114,000).

The 1949–50 estimates were presented for the first time in two parts. The first part is a current budget which includes under revenue proceeds from all taxes, duties, etc., and under expenditure payments for the maintenance of Government services. The second part, the capital budget, contains provisions for all projects involving capital and exceptional expenditure. The capital budget estimates for 1949–50 and 1950–51 are shown below :—

Capital Budget

REVENUE

	1949–50 *Estimates*	1950–51 *Estimates*
	$	$
Loans	20,600	20,600
Advances pending raising of loans	1,680,248	628,309
General Revenue Balance	250,000	100,000
C.D. & W.	141,658	1,306,279
	3,131,293	2,470,007

EXPENDITURE

	1949–50 *Estimates*	1950–51 *Estimates*
	$	$
Public Buildings	830,580	113,869
Housing	538,800	361,102
Roads	460,678	250,001
Water Supplies	708,008	310,000
Other public works	169,372	74,900
Loans	15,000	12,600
Miscellaneous	117,197	40,256
Special Expenditure	150,000	1,000
C.D. & W.	141,658	1,306,279
	3,131,293	2,470,007

The Public Debt at the 31st December, 1949, was $2,905,728, the Sinking Fund on that date being $1,202,075. The position was as follows :—

PUBLIC DEBT

Loan and Amount	*Amount outstanding*	*Sinking Fund at 31st December, 1949, at cost*	*Date redeemable*	*Rate of Interest*
	$	$	$	
Public Loan Act, 1914, and the Reimbursement Act, 1914—$1,195,200	177,600	139,980	148,800—1961 28,800—1963	52,800 at 4% 28,800 at 4½% 96,000 at 5%
General Local Loan Act, 1933, and Public Loans (Redemption) Act, 1933—$676,416	676,416	383,892	1964	3½% per annum
Waterworks Loan Act, 1935—$746,400	746,400	330,253	1961	3% per annum
Education Loan Act, 1935—$397,872	397,872	104,887	1966	3½% per annum
Waterworks Loan Act, 1941—$169,920	169,920	43,215	1966	3½% per annum
Local Loan Act, 1941—$326,400	326,400	83,006	1966	326,000 at 3½% 4,800 at 3%
Public Loans (Redemption) Act, 1942—$411,120	411,120	116,842	1978	3½% per annum
	$2,905,728	$1,202,075		

Digitized by Google

The statement of assets and liabilities of the Colony at the 31st March, 1949, was as follows :—

Liabilities	$
Special Funds	1,762,656
Unexpended Balances	129,899
Miscellaneous Funds not applicable to general Revenue but included in the Treasury Cash	1,108,472
Balance at 31st March, 1949	5,825,060
Total	8,826,087

Assets	$
Cash in Treasury	108,785
Cash at Banks	1,642,150
Due by Crown Agents	4,181,118
Advances	728,921
Due by War Office	9,490
Due by Ministry of Pensions	14,040
Sundry Accounts, Government Savings Bank	59,238
Other Accounts Receivable	92,855
Advances subsequently to be refunded from Loan Funds	226,834
Investments Market value at 31st March, 1949	1,762,656
Total	8,826,087

The rates of income tax prescribed in the Income Tax Act, 1949, are as follows :—

Rates of

	£	s.	d.
On every complete £ of taxable income up to	100		6
Over £100 and up to	200	1	0
„ 200 „ „	400	2	0
„ 400 „ „	600	3	0
„ 600 „ „	800	4	6
„ 800 „ „	1,000	5	6
„ 1,000 „ „	1,750	7	6
„ 1,750 „ „	2,500	9	6
„ 2,500 „ „	5,000	12	0
„ 5,000 „ „		15	0

Income tax is not paid on the first £150 of assessable income in the case of single individuals or £250 in the case of married persons. Deductions are allowed in respect of children under 16 years at the rate of £50 and over 16 in respect of children receiving full time instruction at any university, college or school. A maximum of £40 free of tax is allowed in respect of any other dependant and deductions are made in respect of life insurances not exceeding one-sixth of the total income or 7 per cent. of the actual capital sum assured.

Income tax on companies is at a flat rate of 7s. 6d. on every £ of assessable income and for insurance companies approximately 2s. in the £.

Death duties are payable under the Estate and Succession Duties Act, 1941, rising from £1 per cent. on estates of £1,000–£3,000 to £30 per cent. on estates of £400,000. Relief is granted in the case of quick succession.

Other taxes (apart from customs duties described on page 26) include an excise duty of 10s. 7d. per proof wine gallon on rum (plus a distiller's licence of 2d. per gallon); a tax of 1d. per gallon on petrol; a tax of 8d. per acre or 2d. in the £ on annual rent of houses which goes towards the maintenance of the police force; various stamp duties.

Local Government

The Vestries of the parishes levy three types of tax :—

An *ownership tax* based on assessment by the acre or where the land is developed, on net annual value. Rates range from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 5d. in the £, varying from parish to parish.

An *occupancy tax* on the occupier of a dwelling assessed on the annual net value of the property.

A *trade tax* levied on the average profits over a period of persons engaged in trade. Other revenue is derived from dog licences, pew rents and Central Government grants. The Parishes may also raise loans which can be obtained by Special Act of the Legislature.

PAROCHIAL REVENUE 1947–48

Parish	*Ownership Tax*	*Occupancy Tax*	*Trade Tax*
	£	£	£
St. Michael	34,790	13,230	83,870
Christ Church	12,750	3,350	2,270
St. George	6,580	400	1,150
St. Philip	10,270	250	1,020
St. John	6,210	460	520
St. Lucy	5,870	40	2,540
St. Peter	5,210	190	2,190
St. James	870	540	900
St. Andrew	5,150	60	250
St. Joseph	4,620	150	810
St. Thomas	5,940	40	810

PAROCHIAL EXPENDITURE 1947–48

Parish	*Poor Relief*	*Churches*	*Sanitation*	*Salaries*	*Miscellaneous*
	£	£	£	£	£
St. Michael	62,333	4,896	32,312	8,458	31,313
Christ Church	10,459	1,604	4,354	1,937	2,604
St. George	4,875	937	1,021	792	1,604
St. Philip	8,250	771	1,271	979	2,521
St. John	4,583	417	771	542	1,000
St. Lucy	4,396	667	1,062	1,083	1,417
St. Peter	4,021	771	1,208	688	1,062
St. Andrew	2,812	521	1,146	646	1,042
St. James	4,375	833	1,021	896	1,438
St. Thomas	4,333	958	792	813	937
St. Joseph	5,334	854	1,271	583	1,333

Digitized by Google

The Commissioners of Highways, except for those in the Parishes of St. Michael, St. Andrew and St. Lucy, who are directly responsible to the Department of Highways and Transport, are responsible for roads in their parishes other than roads scheduled in the Highways Act. Revenue is collected from vehicle and driver licences and grants of assistance may be given by the Central Government.

Currency and Banking

Until 1950 the circulation included Government currency notes of 1, 2, 5, 20 and 100 dollars (which were also legal tender in British Guiana and Trinidad and vice versa) and a restricted issue of private bank notes of $5, $20 and $100. Coins in circulation were all United Kingdom coins. In 1950 a unified currency was adopted for the Eastern Caribbean (for details of these arrangements *see* Appendix, page 273).

There are three overseas private banks operating in the Colony—Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Bank of Commerce.

In addition to the private banks there is a Government Savings Bank, which at the end of June, 1949, had 38,607 depositors. There has been a steady increase in the use of the bank in recent years; since 1939 the number of depositors has doubled and the total sum to their credit has risen from £938,902 in 1939 to £2,065,403 at 30th June, 1949. The rate of interest paid on deposits is 3 per cent., with a limit of £300 on new deposits.

The Peasants' Loan Bank was established in 1937 with a capital of £10,000 to be advanced from the Public Treasury as the bank from time to time might require. The objects of the bank are to make loans for various agricultural purposes such as irrigation, the purchase of livestock and manures and to enable peasant proprietors to bring back into cultivation holdings abandoned through lack of capital. A peasant proprietor is defined as one who owns 10 acres or less. The bank is a corporate body, controlled by a Board of Directors consisting of five members as follows :—

The Director of Agriculture, appointed by the Governor, one member appointed sessionally by the Legislative Council, two members appointed sessionally by the House of Assembly and one member appointed by the Agricultural Society of the Island. Loans made for a series of years have been :—

Assistance has been given towards the installation of irrigation units, of which 50 per cent. of the cost is provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, 20–25 per cent. by the peasants and 25–30 per cent. by the bank. In the experience of the bank 80 per cent. of the loans for cultivation are repaid when due and 19 per cent. in the following year. Long term loans are for seven years but are usually repaid in five. The rate of interest charged by the bank was reduced from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent. in 1948.

The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank was established in 1907 with a grant of £80,000 made by the Imperial Treasury to assist the sugar industry of the Colony. The Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act, 1907, was superseded by the Sugar Industry Agricultural Bank Act of 1943 which provided for loans for the carrying on of sugar factories as well as for sugar plantations and sugar cultivation. The net profit of the bank for the financial year 1947–48 amounted to £2,910. The capital of the bank at the end of June, 1948, was £283,154.

The Barbados Co-operative Bank, Ltd., is a privately owned bank incorporated in 1938, with a registered capital of £50,000. In 1948 there were 16,912 depositors in the Savings Branch, the balance to their credit being £66,682. The bank advances loans to persons to purchase homes. The Sugar Companies provide short-term agricultural credit for peasant cane farmers in many instances. There are no co-operative credit societies providing agricultural credits although legislation exists permitting their organisation.

Private Investment

The numbers of registered companies by main categories are shown below.

COMPANIES

Companies other than Barbadian :

Steamship	4	Jewellers	1
Banks	4	Dry Goods	3
Electrical Supplies ..	1	Baking	1
Gas Supplies ..	1	Manufactures ..	2
Shoe Manufacture ..	1	Commission Agents	4
Insurance	18	Laundry	1
Oil Exploration ..	4	Investment	1
Civil Aviation ..	1	Cable and Wireless ..	3
Brokers	1	Lumber	1

PEASANTS' LOAN BANK—AMOUNT OF LOANS

Year	*Loans granted during year No. of persons*	*No. of loans in operation*	*Advances for long term capital expenditure*	*Advances for cultivation*
			£	£
1938–39	203	—	—	934
1943–44	578	—	1,064	2,454
1944–45	457	—	848	2,719
1945–46	433	608	822	3,051
1946–47	466	624	1,180	3,134
1947–48	435	723	1,779*	3,598
1948–49	430	716	1,467*	3,646
1949–50	515	865	2,890*	4,528

* Distributed as follows :—

	1947–48	1948–49	1949–50
	£	£	£
Livestock	897	1,036	1,867
Mortgages	67	211	688
Irrigation	815	220	335
	1,779	1,467	2,890

Digitized by Google

Barbadian Companies :

Printers	1	Investment and Land Development	6
Shippers	10	Building and Hardware	12
Commission Agents	25	Bottling, Ice, etc.	6
Druggists	4	Canning	1
Banks	1	Soap	1
Tailors	2	Biscuits	1
Insurance	2	Foundries	2
Aviation	1	Funeral Establishments	2
Distilleries	3	Hotel Groups	6
Cinema Companies	2	Radio Distribution	1
Tobacco	1		
Garages and Transport	12		
General Merchants	28		
Estates and Sugar Factories	26		

Approximate capital of Barbadian companies £7,815,000
Approximate paid up capital £4,555,000
The capital of the individual companies ranges from £1,000 to £300,000.

There have been no bankruptcies in recent years.

National Income

No further studies have been made of the National Income of Barbados since Dr. F. Benham issued in 1942 his memorandum, "The National Income of Barbados" (published as Bulletin No. 9 by the British West Indies Development and Welfare Organisation). He stated that although the figures he gave were for 1942 the general pattern remained the same in subsequent years though prices and incomes had risen. Dr. Benham reached the conclusion that the net total national income was £5,585,000, equal to some £27 per head of population. The population figure was an estimate which was later proved by the 1946 census to be considerably higher than the actual figure, so that in fact £29–£30 was probably more nearly the figure per head of population. Dr. Benham estimated national output as follows :—

NATIONAL OUTPUT

Value of Production	£	£	£
1. Exports	1,950,000		
2. Foodstuffs	630,000		
3. Manufactures	1,030,000		
4. Government Services	627,000		
5. Distribution of Imports	500,000		
6. Other Services	960,000		
7. Rental Values	544,000		
8. New Construction	70,000		
		6,311,000	
Less deductions			
1. Imported materials	450,000		
2. Imported Cattle Foods, etc.	114,000		
4. Imported replacements	37,000		
4. Imported fuel	86,000		
5. Imported Containers	39,000		
6. Distribution Costs	100,000		
7. Excise Duties	102,000		
8. Payments on above	172,000		
		1,100,000	
			5,211,000
Add Income from Abroad			
1. Interest, Profits, etc.	294,000		
2. Sums remitted	250,000		
3. Gross earnings of ships	20,000		
4. Repair work on ships	46,000		
		610,000	
Less deductions			
1. Interest and Profits paid	236,000		
		236,000	
			374,000
Total			£5,585,000

Cost of Living

A cost of living index is published monthly. The index, which provides an approximate indication of trends, is not based on material obtained from family budgets but on changes in consumption based on returns of production of local foodstuffs, on the imports returns and on changes in local retail prices ascertained from retailers or the Controller of Supplies and Prices. Weighting is revised annually. The index covers food, rent, fuel and light, clothing and other items. Movements in the index since 1939 have been as follows :—

Year	*January*
1939 (January-August)	100
1940	114
1941	124
1942	137
1943	156
1944	168
1945	185
1946	196
1947	228
1948	226
1949	235
1950	228
1951	243

The index stood at 225 in September, 1949, and had risen to 242 by May, 1950.

The Government has subsidized flour, salt fish, salt pork, and animal feeding stuffs to keep down the cost of living. The total amounts spent on food subsidies in recent years have been :—

	$000
1946–47	689
1947–48	1,091
1948–49	1,289
1949–50 (approved estimate)	1,114
1950–51 (estimate)	1,114

The subsidies in 1949–50 were estimated on the basis of $679,000 on flour, $173,000 on salt fish, $158,000 on salt pork and $104,000 on animal feeding stuffs, but rates of subsidy are subject to variation in accordance with changes on import prices. Following devaluation the Government was able to maintain the prices of subsidized foodstuffs—flour, salt fish and pickled pork—at the pre-devaluation level for some months owing to the existence of stocks and the fact that the subsidy estimates made this possible. As a result of the rise in sugar workers' wages in 1950 the prices of subsidized foodstuffs were to be allowed to rise in mid-1950 and the amount of subsidy to be applied in 1950–51 was to remain the same as in 1949–50.

Balance of Trade

The total value of imports for domestic use (including bullion and coin) and of exports of domestic produce are shown below for a series of years :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Year	*Imports*	*Exports*
	£	£
1937	2,220,650	1,498,341
1938	1,996,954	1,218,379
1939	2,374,996	1,885,944
1940	2,200,266	1,504,730
1941	2,168,511	1,660,670
1942	1,885,848	1,117,280
1943	2,731,416	2,098,098
1944	3,217,026	2,302,868
1945	3,426,066	2,691,184
1946	4,899,403	2,926,627
1947	6,995,624	3,487,790
1948	6,192,978	2,773,007
1949	6,808,716	4,359,012
1950	7,771,588	5,400,836

An analysis of the principal imports and their sources for a series of years is given in the following table :—

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS (INCLUDING GOODS FOR RE-EXPORT)

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin (£000)	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin (£000)	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin (£000)
Animal Foods	Lb.	14,072,179	51,029	U.S.A. (33), Argentina (9)	19,130,547	200,115	Canada (99), U.S.A. (55), Argentina (42).	18,529,213	167,436	Argentina (66), Canada (47), U.S.A. (37).
Flour	Bags of 196 lb.	85,352	93,887	U.K. (50), Canada (35)	125,891	453,208	Canada (393), U.S.A. (60)	114,827	287,067	Canada (231), U.S.A. (56)
Rice	Lb.	20,372,276	91,678	Burma (72), B. Guiana (12)	14,792,018	177,504	B. Guiana (163), Brazil (14)	17,684,833	213,692	B. Guiana (all)
Salt Pork	,,	1,878,325	35,689	Canada (28), U.S.A. (4)	3,361,867	134,475	Canada (all)	3,551,534	147,981	Canada (108), U.S.A. (40)
Condensed Milk	,,	1,767,260	17,672	Holland (13), Denmark (2)	1,685,010	84,251	Canada (56), Australia (12), U.S.A. (11).	2,399,168	120,306	Canada (85), U.S.A. (27)
Green Vegetables	,,	5,828,171	21,578	Canada (9), Holland (5)	5,431,178	63,805	Canada (35), Madeira (16)	4,293,577	50,810	Cyprus (23), Madeira (8)
Butter and Butter Substitute	,,	1,200,515	54,162	U.K. (20), France (16)	450,876	67,632	Australia (40), Canada (27)	729,001	105,930	Australia (67), Canada (33)
Fish (dried, smoked, salted, pickled and preserved)	—	—	63,628	Canada and Newfoundland (61), U.S.A. (1).	—	165,970	Canada and Newfoundland (164), U.K. (2).	—	220,003	Canada and Newfoundland (210), U.K. (7).
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	Lb.	125,274	6,264	U.S.A. (4), India (2)	232,457	36,207	Canada (35), U.S.A. (1)	236,661	46,855	Canada (45), U.S.A. (1)
Cigarettes	,,	24,868	16,785	U.K. (15), U.S.A. (1)	16,220	9,732	U.K. (all)	30,605	19,128	U.K. (19)
Beer, Ale and Stout (in bottles)	Gallons	105,362	16,647	U.K. (15), Holland (1)	186,379	71,319	U.K. (50), Canada (14)	209,857	73,240	U.K. (58), Holland (7)
Copra	Tons	607	7,587	Leewards and Windwards (all)	3,211	128,440	Windwards (all)	3,195	149,766	Windwards (145), St. Kitts (3)
Soft Wood and Timber	Feet	6,803,900	60,697	Canada (39), U.S.A. (21)	5,616,944	143,039	Canada (95), U.S.A. (41)	9,990,992	277,802	Canada 190), U.S.A. (48), Bahamas (38).
Shingle, Shooks and Staves	—	—	32,440	Canada (21), U.S.A. (9)	—	143,959	Canada (109), U.S.A. (33)	—	47,859	Canada (45), U.S.A. (2)
Boots, Shoes and Slippers	Pairs	226,066	35,456	U.K. (26), Hong Kong (4)	164,456	98,235	U.K. (59), Canada (28), India (5).	235,409	117,400	U.K. (59), Canada (27), U.S.A. (12).
Cotton Piece Goods	Sq. Yds.	3,302,286	80,419	U.K. (72), U.S.A. (5)	2,171,216	268,000	U.K. (163), Canada (53), U.S.A. (30).	3,130,491	328,585	U.K. (218), U.S.A. (49), Canada (36).
Other Cotton Manufactures (ex apparel)	—	—	58,667	U.K. (50), Japan (3)	—	196,069	U.K. (186), Canada (6)	—	221,000	U.K. (193), U.S.A. (10)
Art Silk Piece Goods	Sq. Yds.	662,624	27,456	U.K. (12), Hungary (3), Japan (2).	913,360	158,103	U.K. (116), U.S.A. (18), Canada (17).	1,185,360	186,651	U.K. (139), U.S.A. (30), Canada (7).
Woollen Piece Goods	,,	—	—	—	168,001	80,472	U.K. (79)	159,038	77,166	U.K. (76)
Motor Spirit	Galls.	1,427,764	38,668	Trinidad (all)	1,972,304	57,526	Trinidad (all)	2,548,009	111,475	Trinidad (all)
Kerosene	,,	404,415	13,480	Trinidad (13), U.S.A. (1)	1,032,981	34,433	Trinidad (all)	1,249,439	54,663	Trinidad (all)
Fertilizers (raw and manufactured)	Tons	11,981	109,777	U.K. (52), Germany (45)	10,661	193,720	U.K. (88), Canada (48), U.S.A. (46).	12,684	248,780	U.K. (140), U.S.A. (54), Canada (29).
Cement	Barrels	22,162	13,297	U.K. (12)	50,435	50,435	U.K. (all)	34,390	38,690	U.K. (all)
Machinery	—	—	72,864	U.K. (65), U.S.A. (6)	—	292,511	U.K. (202), U.S.A. (71)	—	421,485	U.K. (316), U.S.A. (90)
Motor Cars	No.	382	54,996	U.K. (32), Canada (19)	431	145,213	U.K. (131), Canada (9)	414	134,161	U.K. (130), U.S.A. (3)
Trucks and Vans	,,	82	14,369	U.K. (6), Canada (6)	157	68,092	U.K. (64), U.S.A. (3)	98	46,734	U.K. (46)

(S1796) B 4

Digitized by Google

The principal exports and their destinations are set out in the following table :—

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value* (£)	*Principal Countries of Destination* (£000)	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal Countries of Destination* (£000)	*Quantity*	*Value* (£)	*Principal Countries of Destination* (£000)
Sugar	Tons	80,912	683,099	U.K. (519), Canada (160) ..	49,652	1,202,220	U.K. (567), Canada (488), Windwards (75)	126,609	3,273,904	U.K. (2,090), Canada (1,126)
Molasses	Galls.	8,569,054	505,977	Canada and Newfoundland (378), U.S.A. (84), U.K. (44).	6,560,630	1,052,170	Canada and Newfoundland (1,036), U.S.A. (14).	6,143,926	682,358	Canada and Newfoundland (603), U.K. (41).
Rum	,,	99,544	9,332	Bermuda (3), Other B.W.I. (2), U.K. (1).	830,948	373,926	U.K. (141), Bahamas (72), Trinidad (42)	440,363	100,907	Canada (66), Trinidad (42), Bahamas (34)
Cotton Lint	Lb.	3,183	219	U.K. (all)	12,084	2,115	U.K. (all)	58,274	12,140	U.K. (all)
Soap	,,	—	—	—	598,430	29,672	Windwards (11), B. Guiana (10).	238,511	7,701	Leewards and Windwards (all)
Margarine	,,	—	—	—	342,412	25,681	Leewards and Windwards (all).	326,868	23,834	Leewards and Windwards (all).
Edible Oil	Galls.	—	—	—	49,365	16,660	Leewards and Windwards (all).	39,787	12,848	Windwards (all)

Digitized by Google

The proportions of total imports represented by imports from various countries were as follows (total imports are here taken as domestic imports *excluding* bullion and specie).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTS

	1938	1948	1949	1950
	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
United Kingdom ..	40·7	39·3	40·7	46·6
Canada..	13·1	26·3	19·8	14·5
Other, British Empire	17·6	16·5	21·0	21·4
United States	11·8	12·2	12·5	6·6
Other, Foreign ..	16·8	5·7	6·0	10·9
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

The percentage proportions of total exports (including re-exports but excluding bullion and specie) represented by exports to various countries were :—

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF EXPORTS

	1938	1948	1949	1950
	per cent	per cent	per cent	per cent
United Kingdom ..	42·3	24·3	47·3	41·3
Canada..	37·6	47·6	37·2	44·5
Other, British Empire	11·9	25·7	12·9	10·8
United States	6·4	1·1	1·2	2·3
Other, Foreign ..	0·7	0·6	0·8	0·7
Bunkers and Stores ..	1·1	0·7	0·6	0·4
Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

A Sketch Plan of Development for the period 1946–1956 was prepared in June 1947 by a Committee presided over by the Chief Secretary.

The Plan was based on the assumption that the following funds could be made available :—

DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

	£
From Colonial Development and Welfare Act	800,000
From surplus balances	600,000
From Revenue (during 10-year period).. ..	1,000,000
To be raised by loan	1,000,000
	£3,400,000

The Plan summarised its proposals for development as follows :—

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

	Total cost over 10 years	*Annual Recurrent*
	£	£
Agriculture	486,806	27,241
Education	446,000	25,700
Health	727,570	55,900
Housing and Town Planning ..	534,000	—
Water	533,000	20,000
Social Welfare	200,000	13,080
Emigration	100,000	—
Industrial Development	50,000	—
Communications	126,300	4,300
Buildings	198,050	—
Tourist Industry	10,000	1,000
	£3,411,726	£147,221

The Government had previously committed itself to expenditure on a number of schemes prior to the publication of the Plan and adopted the Committee's report as a guide which would no doubt require revision. Such a review is now in progress.

There had been a number of schemes approved prior to 1945, the unspent balances on which at 1st April, 1946, constitute a charge of approximately £204,500 against the Colonial Development and Welfare allocation of £800,000. These schemes (referred to as " previously committed ") were included in the Development Plan. Three small supplementary and two new schemes involving an expenditure of £1,645 were approved between 1946 and the middle of 1949, and £500,000 was set aside as a contribution to a Deep Water Harbour Scheme which was estimated to cost over £3 million. Progress on this scheme has not taken place. Towards the end of 1949 a scheme for extending Seawell Airport at a cost of £252,500 was approved as a charge against the £800,000 allocation ; and in 1950 a further sum of £85,000 was approved as a supplementary scheme.

The Comptroller of the Development and Welfare Organisation for the West Indies received substantial allocations under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for distribution amongst West Indian Colonies and grants to Barbados from this source amounted to £95,000. There has also been some expenditure during 1948–49 and 1949–50 on the development programme from local funds. In 1949–50 the colony adopted a double budget. The estimated expenditure on development, and the revenue from Colonial Development and Welfare, loan and local sources which it was proposed to make available for such purposes, is shown in the Capital Budget on page 35.

Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes

Agricultural Development. Schemes for the improvement of agriculture were approved in 1943 with the object of raising the standard of animal husbandry and peasant agriculture and encouraging mixed farming. The principal projects under this head were :—

Irrigation. Since the principal factor limiting agricultural development is lack of water, schemes for using Barbados underground water supplies received high priority. This has taken the form of assistance to peasant farmers to instal pumping units (*see* page 28).

Agricultural Research and Experimental Station. Six district agricultural stations have been built which serve as stud and demonstration stations and a Central Livestock Centre established as part of a plan for developing animal husbandry as an ancillary to sugar. Pedigree stock have been imported for building up the station's herds and for distribution to district stations and dairy owners. Good quality dairy cattle bred from imported stock should be available to purchasers from the station in 1951.

Extensions have been made to the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station.

Co-operation. The development of co-operation under the agricultural development scheme has been described on page 33.

Agricultural Credit. The scope of the Peasants' Loan Bank has been extended to give financial assistance to peasants for irrigation and the purchase of livestock in addition to its original functions of assistance for the purchase of land and manures and payment of taxes. (For details of assistance *see* page 37).

Soil Conservation. Although erosion has not been a problem in the past except in one area, it is feared that the extension of mechanisation on plantations in recent years may produce erosion if counter measures are not taken. Demonstrations of such measures are being given on plantations and rehabilitation schemes have been prepared for the Scotland area.

Fisheries. Assistance given to this industry in the way of loans to fishermen, beach improvements and the establishment of markets have been described on page 32.

Digitized by Google

Cotton Spinning. A small pilot plant which was set up in 1947 now produces approximately 250 lb. of 24's yarn per week. Favourable reports have been received on shipments of yarn to the Jamaica knitting mills. As originally intended the plant was sold to a private firm which took over operations late in 1950.

Education. The Ten Year Plan contains a scheme for the expansion of educational services with the ultimate object of making education compulsory and available to all. Colonial Development and Welfare schemes include the establishment of a Teachers' Training College and the extension of the Women's Bureau. The first Teachers' Training Course opened at the new College in January, 1948. Colonial Development and Welfare funds have also been used to finance classes in biology which are given in the Barbados Museum by a graduate teacher. Between March, 1949, and February, 1951, provision for 1,500 extra primary school pupils has been made and two new secondary schools were expected to be completed in 1951.

Medical. A small maternity hospital for the training of midwives was opened in 1948. It has 20 beds and can accept for training 10 partly trained and 10 pupil midwives. A general reorganisation of the island's medical services is being undertaken, legislative sanction for which was sought in 1950.

Social Welfare. A Social Welfare Officer and an Assistant have been appointed and have helped in the reorganisation of the probation service and in the drawing up of schemes for the improvement of juvenile reform schools.

Communications. The construction of a new runway at Seawell Airport, bringing it up to International classification C.I., was completed in 1952.

Schemes Financed from Local Funds. Development work carried out from the Colony's funds and from loan resources in 1948–49 and 1949–50 is summarised below :—

(In 1949–50 revenue and expenditure relating to development with respect both to Colonial Development and Welfare and local funds were set out in the Capital Budget (*see* page 35).)

Slum Clearance. The Government programme of house-building and of preparing sites for home builders has been described on page 25.

Other Building. Additions have been made to the Mental Hospital and to other public buildings, and in 1949–50 funds were provided for preparatory work on the Victoria Bridge.

Education. The school building programme in 1949–50 included nine projects for new schools and improvements of existing buildings.

Communications. The reconstruction and repair of tenantry roads which were not previously maintained at public expense has been undertaken.

Water Supplies. Machinery and equipment costing £100,000 was ordered in 1948–49 in connection with an extension of the water-supply scheme. Work continued in 1950 on laying out a road at the site for the extension of the main pumping station and on supplying additional water mains and stand pipes. A revision for a consumption of 8 million gallons per day compared with 4 million in 1951 is being made.

Emigration Schemes. The 1949–50 budget provided £31,250 towards the financing of emigration schemes.

Digitized by Google

BERMUDA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Bermudas, or Somers Islands are situated near latitude 32° N., longitude 65° W., a distance of 570 miles east-south-east of the nearest land, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The islands are roughly the shape of a fish hook lying north-east to south-west. The total area is 21 square miles, and the overall length under 15 miles.

The principal concentration of population is in the parish of Pembroke, which contains the city of Hamilton with some 3,000 inhabitants. The second city is St. George, having a population of approximately 1,300 and lying in the parish of St. George's in the extreme east of the islands.

Vital statistics are given below for some pre-war and recent post-war years :—

VITAL STATISTICS, 1937-50

	*Birth Rate**			*Death Rate**			*Infant Mortality†*		
	White	*Coloured*	*All*	*White*	*Coloured*	*All*	*White*	*Coloured*	*All*
1937	17·3	26·8	23·1	9·6	11·3	10·6	49·3	81·1	71·4
1938	17·8	28·7	24·4	10·2	12·2	10·6	45·6	65·4	59·8
1939	18·7	26·9	23·7	8·9	10·2	9·7	35·1	74·4	62·5
1947	19·9	30·3	26·0	8·4	9·8	9·2	31·7	46·8	42·7
1948	20·1	28·1	25·2	8·4	8·0	8·2	26·2	35·5	32·8
1949	20·1	28·1	25·2	9·0	8·4	8·6	37·0	41·0	39·8
1950	23·6	34·4	30·2	8·1	9·6	9·0	25·7	49·6	43·9

* Per 1,000 of the civil population.

† Per 1,000 live births.

No part is more than a mile from the sea, and most of the land lies at less than 100 feet above mean sea level, with the highest points less than 300 feet. Lines of low hills extend along the islands and the topography is on the whole surprisingly uneven considering the low elevations. There are no lakes or rivers.

The climate is temperate, with the thermometer reaching 90° F., on a few days in the summer and falling below 50° F., on some days in winter. The absolute extremes recorded are 43° F., and 94° F. The daily range of temperatures is about 10° F. In February, the coldest month of the year, the temperature is between 60° F. and 65° F., in the daylight hours, while in August, the hottest month, it is between 77° F. and 84° F., in the daytime. Average daily sunshine varies from 4·8 hours in December to 9·8 hours in July ; there are over 90 days per year with 10 hours or more. Days without sun average about 15 a year. Relative humidity averages 75 per cent. in winter and 80 per cent. in summer. In winter it occasionally falls below 50 per cent., but throughout the summer it is seldom far from the 80 per cent. average. Rain falls at all seasons of the year, with a minimum in July of 3·86 inches and a maximum of 6·14 inches in October. There has never been a month with absolutely no rainfall. The yearly average is 58 inches and it has ranged from 39 inches to 87 inches, with 133 to 210 rain days per year.

The prevailing winds are from the south-east, veering through south to north-westerly with an average velocity of 18 to 20 miles per hour in winter and 11 to 12 miles per hour in summer. Gales have been recorded from 20 to 50 days per year ; the average is 37 days. Tropical storms are liable to affect Bermuda during May to November ; their greatest frequency is in September and October, but it is only about once in eight years that the centres pass close enough to give winds of hurricane force.

Population

The estimated total population of the islands, at 31st December, 1950, was 43,050. This figure includes British military and naval personnel with their dependents, and United States military and civilian staffs. The resident civilian population at the same date was estimated to be 37,394, composed as shown in the following table, which also gives the corresponding figures for 1939 :—

The total population at the date of the 1939 Census was 35,423 and the " ordinary " population—excluding H.M. Forces and Dockyard establishment, bona fide tourists, non-resident employees, and persons temporarily absent—was 30,516. The latter figure can be analysed according to occupations.

The gainfully-occupied population at the census date numbered 13,692, of whom 10,514 were in full-time employment, 2,048 were in part-time employment, and 1,130 were unemployed. That part of the population which was not gainfully occupied comprised 8,890 children under 13, 7,346 persons—including housewives and children at home—of no occupation, and 588 others, including independent and retired persons and others over 65 years of age. The gainfully-occupied population was distributed between occupations and industries as follows :—

OCCUPATIONS, 1939

	Numbers
Farmers and Farm Labourers	557
General Labourers	2,376
House Building Trades	1,333
Electrical Trades	234
Vehicle Drivers, Mechanics, etc. ..	756
Pilots, Fishermen and Seamen	240
Shipwrights	19
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Laundry ..	523
Shoemakers and Repairers	19
Bakers	50
Hotel and Guest-house Managers ..	152
Domestic and Hotel Help	3,005
Wholesale Merchants and Salesmen ..	98
Shopkeepers and Sales Clerks	1,248
Office Clerks	498
Ministers of Religion	50
Lawyers	14
Medical and Veterinary	41
Nurses	181
Teachers	213
Miscellaneous Trades and Professions ..	930
Colonial Government Employ	449
Military or Naval Employ	706
Total gainfully occupied	13,692

POPULATION, 1939 AND 1950

	*31st December, 1939**			*31st December, 1950†*		
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*
White	6,076	6,096	12,172	6,556	6,941	13,497
Coloured	9,503	9,986	19,489	11,721	12,176	23,897
Total	15,579	16,082	31,661	18,277	19,117	37,394

* Based on the census of 26th March, 1939.

† Based on the census of 22nd October, 1950.

Digitized by Google

Social Amenities

Education

At the end of 1950 there were 27 aided schools in Bermuda. These comprised 19 primary schools, one secondary school, five schools providing both primary and secondary education, one vocational school for girls, at which instruction was provided chiefly in dress-making and millinery, and one Art School attended by part-time students. In addition there is a school for the deaf supported by Government funds. The vocational school, the Art School, and the school for the deaf were opened in 1948.

There were 6,081 pupils attending aided schools in 1950 and 1,343 attending private schools, a total enrolment of 7,424 pupils. Attendance is compulsory for children over seven and under 13 years. Of the pupils attending aided schools, 625 were receiving post-primary education.

There are no technical schools, but there are four manual training and four domestic training centres. There are no establishments of higher education.

There are few totally illiterate persons in the Colony.

Health

The most common causes of death are diseases of the heart and circulation, which account for some 30 per cent. of all deaths. There is, however, virtually no rheumatic heart disease in Bermuda. Nephritis accounts for 17 per cent. of deaths, apoplexy, respiratory diseases and cancer 12 per cent. each. Tuberculosis causes under 2 per cent. of all deaths.

Cases of venereal disease have been under compulsory treatment since 1943; over 1,000 syphilitics have been treated in the Health Department clinics and about 400 by private practitioners. The incidence of syphilis is approximately 5 per cent.

There has been no epidemic of importance during recent years. In 1941–2 there was an epidemic of dengue fever, from which there developed a joint effort of the British and American Forces to assist the local health department in clearing the island of mosquitoes. This measure met with considerable success, and is being continued at an annual cost of about £6,000. There has never been malaria on the island.

School children are under medical, nutritional, and nursing supervision. A dental officer is employed. Financial help is given with minor surgical requirements and with glasses. Clinics for infants and pre-school children are provided throughout the island, and to a less extent for expectant mothers.

Housing

Some 6,500 houses were in existence at the end of the war. From then to the end of 1951, 1,125 houses have been built and some hotels converted into 150 flats, all by private enterprise. There is no general or organised building scheme and restrictions in both town and country are few.

New buildings are all fully fitted with plumbing, but there are still some 2,000 earth privies which, due first to war restrictions and now to currency difficulties, are being cleared at the slow rate of 100 a year.

The cost of labour and materials has restricted building in the post-war period to those who can do some of their own work, or to the few with a highly speculative turn. The cost has been too high for the labourer or man with a large family to improve his housing conditions.

Social Security

An Act of 1949 empowers the Government to make provision for sickness and workmen's accident benefits on a contributory basis. The cost of administering the scheme would be borne by Government and, if successful, it would probably be extended to include old age pensioners. No funds have yet been voted for the scheme.

There is no general statutory provision for unemployment, old age, or indigence. Local banks and a few of the larger companies grant pensions to their employees. The need for an employment scheme has never arisen as very little unemployment has existed, except during a short period after the commencement of the war in 1939 and until the establishment of the United States Bases in 1941.

The Government operates a pension scheme for all its established employees. The normal age of retirement is 65, but employees may elect to retire at 60. Pensions are payable on retirement through illness after 10 years' service. Compassionate allowances are also paid to Government employees in non-pensionable posts provided that they have completed 25 years of service and attain the age of 60.

Friendly Societies have been in existence in the Colony for more than 80 years, and at present 16 societies are registered. They exist for the relief, maintenance and endowment of members and their families in old age, sickness, or widowhood.

The Government Savings Bank was founded in 1871 and is operated through the Post Office. The number of depositors and amount of their holdings is shown in the following figures :—

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK, 1938–50

Year	*Number of Depositors*	*Amount*
		£
1938	5,876	108,867
1939	5,679	116,528
1946	7,731	410,524
1947	8,254	457,793
1948	8,868	519,046
1949	9,374	601,592
1950	9,381	647,794

A War Savings Certificates scheme was established in 1941 with an established maximum purchase value of £375,000, and a redemption value of £500,000. Certificates ceased to be sold in 1945, when £348,680 of certificates (purchase value) had been sold. Certificates cease to bear interest after 10 years from the date of purchase. On 30th September, 1949, Certificates of a purchase value of £90,892 had been redeemed while £257,788 remained outstanding.

Political Structure

The orders of the Constitution of the Colony under the Bermuda Company made provision for some self-government by the settlers, including a limited right to elect representatives. The first General Assembly for Bermuda was held in St. George's on 1st August, 1620. When the Government passed to the Crown in 1684, the Commission to the first Royal Government confirmed the grant of representative institutions, which have been continued without interruption until the present day.

The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of four official and three unofficial members. The official members are the Colonial Secretary, Officer Commanding Troops, Attorney-General, and Colonial Treasurer. The unofficial members are also Members of the House of Assembly, thus providing a liaison between the Executive and the Lower House. The laws of the Colony are enacted by a Legislature consisting of the Governor, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council or Upper House consists of nine Members, three of whom are officials and are the holders of the offices of Chief Justice, Colonial Secretary and Attorney-General. The unofficial members are nominated by the Governor for a period of three years and can be re-appointed for further terms. The House of Assembly consists of 36 Members, four from each of the nine Parishes in the Island. The qualification for a Member of the Assembly is the possession of freehold property of the value of £240. The electorate is composed of persons of 21 years of age or over who possess in their own right, within any or several of the electoral Parishes, property valued at not less than £60.

Digitized by Google

The main departments of Government are :—Executive ; Secretariat ; Treasury (including Customs) ; Public Works ; Boards of Education, Health, Trade, Immigration, Trade Development, and Civil Aviation.

Local authorities in the islands are the nine vestries, one for each parish, and the corporations of the City of Hamilton and the Town of St. George. The parish vestries are elected annually and are responsible for the general parochial administration of the poor law.

Hamilton was incorporated in 1793 and became the capital of the colony in 1815 when the seat of Government was transferred from St. George ; the status of City was conferred on Hamilton in 1897, by an Act of Legislature, in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The City is governed by a corporation elected annually in January and consisting of a Mayor, three aldermen, and five common councillormen.

The town of St. George was founded in 1612 and remained the capital of the colony until 1815 ; corporate status was conferred by Act of the Legislature in 1797. The composition of the corporation is similar to that of Hamilton.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

For the incorporation of a company the enactment by the Legislature of a private bill is required. The Companies Acts of 1923 and 1948 contain certain general provisions which apply to every joint stock company, subject to any provisions to the contrary in the individual incorporating Act.

No person who is not " domiciled " in the Colony and no non-resident corporate body may carry on any business, practise any profession, or take any employment except with permission granted by the Board of Immigration under the Immigration Acts, 1937 and 1948. To be " domiciled " it is necessary to be a British subject and to possess one or other of certain specified qualifications, the more usual of which are birth in the Colony and continuous ordinary residence in the Colony for seven years. A " non-resident corporate body " is a corporate body which has not been incorporated in the Colony by or under an Act of the Legislature.

Restrictions are imposed by law in connection with the sale of intoxicating liquor and of dangerous drugs and poisons ; there are also restrictions (by regulations made under the Public Health Act, 1949) on the sale of meat, milk (which has to be pasteurized or to be from an approved herd), aerated water, and other food and drink.

Trade Tariffs

The public revenue from taxation is mainly derived from import duties, levied under a Customs Tariff Act passed annually, mostly *ad valorem* but partly specific, with preferential rates for Commonwealth products. The general rate of duty (to which there are numerous exceptions) is 15 per cent. of the f.o.b. value of Commonwealth products and 17½ per cent. on the f.o.b. value of non-Commonwealth products.

There is no income tax, land tax or inheritance tax, nor any other major form of direct taxation.

Municipal and parish rates are levied under the Municipalities Act, 1923, and the Parish Vestries Act, 1929, respectively, on real and personal property, for services (lighting, scavenging, street cleaning, etc.) rendered by municipal and parochial authorities.

Labour

The Labour Board, established under the Labour Board Act, 1945, acts as an employment bureau and is also charged with the duty of endeavouring to settle by conciliation disputes between employers and workmen. Further facilities for the settlement of labour disputes are provided by the Labour Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Act, 1945, under which the Governor, if both parties consent, may set up an Arbitration Tribunal to investigate and make an award in relation to any specific labour dispute which has been reported to him. Under the same Act the Governor may, without the consent of either party and whether or not the dispute has been reported to him, set up a Commission of Enquiry to investigate and report on any labour dispute.

The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Act, 1946, regulates trade unions, of which there are only three in the Colony : one is a general association of workmen of all kinds under the name of the Bermuda Industrial Union, and the other two are associations of school teachers (one of white and one of coloured teachers). The Act contains provisions similar to those in the (now repealed) United Kingdom Act of 1927 relating to illegal strikes and illegal lock-outs.

There is no minimum wage legislation, and no workmen's compensation law, but the Social Security (Sickness and Workmen's Benefit) Act, 1949, provides, on the basis of compulsory contributions by employers and employees, for relief in case of sickness, or disablement by accident or otherwise, of employed persons. The Act has not yet come into operation.

Land Tenure

There are restrictions on the acquisition of land by aliens and also by British subjects who are not domiciled in the Colony, the expression " domiciled " being used in the sense explained above. The sanction of the Governor-in-Council is required for any acquisition, other than by way of lease or letting agreement for a term not exceeding seven years, or by way of mortgage.

There is a statutory limit of five acres to the area of land that may be acquired by aliens. The relevant Acts are the Alien Act, 1926, and the Acquisition of Land by British Subjects (Restriction) Act, 1948.

Immigration

Immigration in Bermuda is governed by the Immigration Act, 1937, and subsequent amendments. Under the provisions of this Act, there is created a statutory " domicile "—which should not be confused with common-law domicile—and it is provided that :—(*a*) only British subjects may have or acquire statutory domicile, and (*b*) British subjects who (i) were not born in Bermuda, or, (ii) were not born of parents who at the time of the birth of the person claiming domicile were ordinarily resident in Bermuda, may acquire statutory domicile only by remaining in Bermuda as ordinary residents for seven years or more.

No person other than one enjoying statutory domicile, a freeholder, or a bona fide visitor in possession of a return ticket, is allowed to reside or remain in Bermuda without specific permission of the Board of Immigration. There are certain exemptions to this provision, e.g., Army and Naval personnel stationed in the Islands and civil servants on the Establishment of the Islands. Time spent in the Islands in an exempted category does not count towards acquiring domicile.

A bona fide visitor possessing a return ticket is permitted to remain in the Islands for eight months without obtaining the express permission of the Board of Immigration. No person other than one enjoying statutory domicile may seek or take employment without permission of the Board of Immigration. (The term " employment " includes carrying on a trade or business or the practising of a profession.) A bye-law enacted under the provision of the Immigration Acts restricts persons from entering the Colony for the purpose of seeking a quota visa with which to legalise their entry into the United States of America.

Digitized by Google

Transport and Communications

Internal

A railway line was formerly operated by Government, throughout virtually the full length of the islands, from Southampton near the Western extremity to St. George in the East. The line was abandoned in 1948.

There are in the Colony approximately 109 miles of metalled road, little of which was designed for motor traffic. Several sections of road have been widened but no overall highway improvement scheme has been carried out. It is the general wish of the community to preserve as far as possible the charm and amenities of the Island, and no modern motor roads are proposed. The speed limit in Bermuda is 20 m.p.h. in rural areas and 15 m.p.h. in built-up areas.

Prior to the Second World War the general use of motor vehicles was prohibited, and the railway was the only mechanical system of inland transport. Horse-drawn vehicles and bicycles were the principal means of individual travel. After the war this system proved inadequate and the use of motor vehicles was permitted, subject to some restriction. The operation of taxis and trucks is subject to permit from the Transport Control Board. The use of private cars is restricted to one car per household and the unrestricted driving of them is limited to related members of a household. There are over 1,400 registered private cars. The only type of motor vehicle not restricted in any way is the autobicycle, of which some 3,200 are licensed. There are 440 taxis granted permits by the Board, 550 trucks, and 21 airport limousines. Taxis and airport limousines are classified as Public Service Vehicles and airport limousines are restricted to the conveyance of airline passengers and personnel to and from the airport at St. Georges.

An omnibus service operated by the Bermuda Government has four vehicles and six routes covering approximately 50 miles. The longest run, from Somerset to St. George's, is 26 miles. The system was begun in 1946 and in May, 1948 it took over the passenger traffic previously carried by the railway. The service is administered by the Public Transportation Board.

Three ferry systems are in operation : Hamilton–Ireland Island–Somerset Ferry ; Hamilton–Paget and Warwick Ferry ; St. George's–St. David's Ferry. They are subsidized by the Bermuda Government and operated by private management under contract. The ferries have suffered a decline in their traffic receipts as a result of competition from road transport, and the cost of the Government subsidy has risen accordingly.

External

Regular passenger services are maintained by the Furness Bermuda line to New York, the Royal Mail " Loch " ships to the United Kingdom, and the Canadian National Steamship Company to Canada and the West Indies. The Pacific Steam Navigation Company makes four calls a year *en route* from the United Kingdom to South America. Most of these lines operate cargo services and there are also regular cargo services provided by the Alcoa line from Canada and New York.

British Overseas Airways Corporation, Pan-American Airways, and Colonial Airlines maintain a regular service between Bermuda and the United States of America. British Overseas Airways Corporation also operate between the United Kingdom, Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica, while Trans-Canada Airlines operate between Canada, Bermuda, Barbados and Trinidad.

Aerovias *Nacionales de Colombia* call at Bermuda on their services from Colombia to Lisbon, Madrid and Paris. Compania Cubana de Aviacion operate between Havana and Madrid, each way, calling at Bermuda and the Azores. A number of non-scheduled carriers also call at Bermuda on routes between Europe and Central and South America.

Kindley Field is the only land plane airport in Bermuda. It was constructed by the United States Government during the war and is leased to the United States of America for 99 years. The airfield is open, with some restrictions, to civil aircraft. The Military Authorities provide air traffic control, communications and meteorological forecasting services. Passenger handling accommodation and domestic facilities for the airline companies are limited at present but plans have been made for the development of an area within the base as a civil airport terminal with full facilities and the construction of the new terminal building has begun.

At Darrell's Island, adjoining Hamilton Harbour, there is a sea-plane base owned by the Bermuda Government, which is not now used, as all planes operating in and out of Bermuda are of the land type.

Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs

The islands have 14 post offices, of which four are money-order offices. There are no internal telegraph offices. Letters from the United Kingdom usually take three days by air-mail or nine to 12 days by surface mail.

The privately-owned Bermuda Telephone Company is the terminal authority for telephone links with overseas countries. The overseas telephone and telegraph system operated by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited, links Bermuda with the world network and there are also radio-telephone and wireless communications with overseas countries. The islands possess a broadcasting station, and it is estimated that some 14,000–15,000 receiving sets are in use.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The islands are characterised by low hills and valleys, the hills representing ancient sand dunes of unusual height (200–270 feet). Many of the broader valleys are now partly filled up with red clay and calcareous sands washed down from the hills. The bottoms of some of the valleys are occupied by fresh water or brackish marshes. The soil is partly reddish clay, and partly shell sand mixed with humus ; it is fertile although highly calcareous. The pH ranges from 7·5 to 7·8. The C : N ratio averages 10·8, indicating fairly complete humification of the organic matter in the soil. The soils are well drained and in the natural state contain little organic matter. As a result of the very porous soil and the small land area, springs and streams are absent.

The lack of water is a limiting factor at certain times. The whole of the domestic water supply is obtained from the roofs of buildings and from other catchments. Although the amount collected during heavy rains is usually sufficient to tide the community over a drought, there is no water available for irrigation. Wells have been sunk in many places, but the water so obtained is brackish and not conducive to plant growth.

The depth of soil varies considerably, but is not more than one foot on the majority of farms, the depth in which vegetables are grown. Outcrops of rock are a hindrance to mechanical cultivation. Very little trouble, however, is experienced with soil erosion.

The climate is suitable for the growth of sub-tropical and warm temperate vegetables, and its mildness enables crops to be cultivated throughout most of the year, although chiefly from September to June. Two crops and sometimes three are grown annually on the same land. Fields are small, rarely exceeding four acres, with many less than half an acre. They are generally surrounded by windbreaks of Oleander bushes or cedar trees, a very necessary protection, since the mean velocity of the wind is 8–9 miles per hour, and gales and storms are not uncommon from November to April. The damage suffered by plant life from heavy winds and salt spray often exceeds that caused by fungus disease or insect pest.

Digitized by Google

Of Bermuda's total land area, approximately one-sixth, or roughly 2,100 acres, is available for cultivation. The total farm acreage amounts to 2,000 acres, of which 1,340 are grazing land, and 660 are arable. A farm survey made in 1948 showed that the size of holdings varies from two to 20 acres. The average area per farm is 3·7 acres overall, and varies between parishes from 2·2 acres in Warwick to 5·5 acres in Southampton.

Equipment in use in the farms consists mainly of horse drawn ploughs, cultivators and harrows. Hand seed drills and hand push hoes and cultivators are also freely used. Much of the work of clearing the fields is done by hand, and there is some use of small horticultural tractors operated by a pedestrian. The fields are not large enough to warrant the general use of larger tractors, although some are in use. For many years the Department of Agriculture has been assisting the farmers by hiring out a crawler tractor and equipment, but the work is made difficult by the large number of small fields scattered over a wide area. At the time of the 1948 farm survey, the island's farms had a total of some 120 ploughs, 90 mechanical cultivators, and 60 harrows, with a variety of other farming machinery, including four milking machines and one electric brooder and plucking machine.

Farmyard manure is used extensively but there is never sufficient for requirements. Most growers apply Castor Pomice to the growing crops at the rate of 16 to 20 cwt. per acre. Compound fertilizers of a 1–2–1 ratio are now used such as a 4–8–4 analysis ; the Department of Agriculture has recommended the use of this type of fertilizer. Seaweed has always been regarded an excellent substitute for farmyard manure, but is not now used extensively as it is not an economic proposition to haul the seaweed to the farms.

Considerable spraying has to be done regularly on potatoes, tomatoes and citrus. Potato crops are sprayed about every two weeks with a copper spray as a prevention against " Blight ", *Phytophtoro infestans.*

Tomatoes are similarly sprayed against the Tomato Moth. Occasionally a severe outbreak of the " Fireworm " *Hymenia fascialis* occurs when Arsenate of Lead is used as a control. All seedling vegetables are treated with an arsenical compound in the seed bed and frequently a poison bait has to be applied to Brassica seedling to control cut worms, etc. Citrus trees are sprayed at least three times a year mainly to control scale insects, but rust mites and certain fungus diseases such as *Melanose* are also prevalent.

Agriculture in Bermuda comprises :—(*a*) the cultivation of market garden crops ; (*b*) the cultivation of the Easter Lily (*lilium longiflorum*) for the production of flowers and bulbs ; (*c*) fruit growing ; (*d*) animal husbandry.

Field and Tree Crops

The soil and climate are suitable for the production of potatoes, a wide range of vegetables, and salad crops during the winter and spring months. Formerly several kinds of vegetables were grown for export to overseas markets and were largely exported to New York up to 1930 and to Canada up to the outbreak of the 1939–45 world war. Due to shipping difficulties during the war export was discontinued and the trade has not been resumed. Owing to the high cost of production it is no longer a good economic proposition to export vegetables, and the area of land devoted to crops has gradually declined from 1,500 acres in 1944 to 625 acres in 1948. At the present time all the produce is consumed locally. Bermuda's economy has gradually shifted from one in which the export of agricultural products played a major part to one almost dependent upon the tourist industry. The growth of the tourist trade has, however, meant an expanding market for local produce.

The Easter Lily (*Lilium longiflorum vars.*) has been cultivated for many years for the production of bulbs which were exported to the United States of America and the United Kingdom. With the advent of air traffic between Bermuda and the United States of America, a flourishing trade has been built up in lily flowers which are readily sold in the Eastern United States during the late winter and early spring. The bulb industry is in the hands of a few growers. Demand has been high during recent years and good prices have been received for all available bulbs and flowers. Some of the best land for lily cultivation was taken over by the United States Government in 1941. Before the second world war Bermuda lily bulbs were sold in competition with those grown in Japan and there are signs that Bermuda growers will find the Japanese keen competitors again.

In 1950, 25 acres were devoted to lily cultivation, and 1,300,000 bulbs were planted ; exports were as follows :—

LILY EXPORTS, 1950

	Number	*Value*
	000s	£000s
Bulbs	230	5
Buds	1,700	19·7
Stems	44	11
		36

Citrus fruit is of recent introduction, over 50 acres having been planted during the early post-war years. The trees grow well and produce reasonably good yields. A Citrus Growers' Association was formed in 1945 and through the Association the Department of Agriculture undertakes to spray and fertilise all citrus trees three times a year. The Citrus Growers' Association also arranges an annual Exhibition of locally grown fruits. Seventy acres were under cultivation in 1950, carrying some 10,000 trees ; an average yield of three dozen fruit per tree was obtained, giving a total yield valued on the farm at £7,500.

The areas under the principal remaining field crops, with the average yield of each and the total estimated yield for 1950, are shown in the following table :—

FIELD CROPS: ACREAGE AND YIELDS, 1950

Crop	*Acreage*	*Average yield* 000 *lb. per acre*	*Total yield,* 1950 *tons*
Beans ..	45	4	90
Beets	30	9	120
Broccoli ..	20	2·5	20
Cabbage ..	45	12	240
Carrots ..	60	12	320
Onions ..	20	10	90
Potatoes ..	275	9	1,150
Sweet Potatoes	15	9	60
Tomatoes ..	60	10	270
Bananas ..	80	8	430
Miscellaneous	55	12	200
Total ..	705	..	3,000

A scheme has been started recently, known as " Planned Production and Marketing ". By a contract with the Department of Agriculture, farmers are encouraged to grow certain kinds of vegteables, the purchase of which by the Department is guaranteed at fixed minimum prices.

Livestock

There are some 1,200 cattle in Bermuda, mostly dairy cows. Expansion is limited by dependence on imported feeding stuffs, on which many dairymen rely almost entirely. The area available for the growing of forage crops is limited, but certain crops such as alfalfa, maize, oats, and sorghums produce excellent yields. Other livestock include some 1,900 pigs, 240 horses and 8,000 laying hens.

The output of the principal livestock products in 1950 was as follows :—

OUTPUT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, 1950

	Unit of Quantity	*Quantity*	*Value* (£000's)
Milk	000 gals.	600	150
Eggs	000 doz.	3	105
Beef	000 lb.	50	3·1
Veal	,,	60	3·8
Pork	,,	300	18·8
Poultry	,,	50	5
			286

Digitized by Google

Forestry

There are no forestry undertakings in Bermuda. The Islands are covered with the local Cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*) and the timber is used quite extensively for making furniture and in house building, although most of the timber used in the Islands is imported. Until recently no reafforestation scheme existed. Trees were removed as and when necessary but very little planting was undertaken. The local Cedar has recently been attacked by two scale insects, the Juniper Scale (*Diaspis visci*) and the Oyster Shell Scale (*Lepidosaphes Sp.*) which are responsible for the death of approximately 60 per cent. of the trees in the Colony. Vigorous action has been taken to control the ravages of these scales by biological methods ; some measure of success has been obtained, but large areas will have to be replanted, for which purpose thousands of cedar seedlings are being raised. Other trees known to succeed in the Colony are also being propagated for reafforestation purposes. The main policy, however, is to plant quick growing trees which will provide shade and generally improve the appearance of the Islands in the least possible time. This is particularly important in view of the tourist trade. Owing to the shallow nature of the soil in many places it is difficult to find a suitable tree to replace the cedar, especially for exposed sites.

Fisheries

Bermuda is surrounded by a reef area of approximately 400 square miles, and there are two off-lying 30-fathom deep banks of about 50 square miles each. Upon this total area of 500 square miles of reef depends the supply of sea food for the resident population and a transient tourist population of 60,000 annually. Local resources have to be supplemented by imports of fish.

The range in sea temperature is from 60° F., in winter to 84° F., in July, August and September. Because of the warmth the fishes of northern waters do not survive, and sea life does not teem as it does in more northerly latitudes. Cod, hake, and herrings are unknown ; fish caught include red snapper, amberfish, tuns, mackerel, grouper, rockfish, porgy, barracuda, and other southern forms. Forty species of fish, out of the 300 or more recorded, and one of shell-fish supply the sea food for Bermuda. Oysters, clams and crabs are not found in commercial quantities. The single form of shell-fish of importance is the Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus argus*). It resembles considerably the lobster of West Africa and the Mediterranean, and is identical with the commercially important species of the West Indies and Florida.

There were formerly sufficient turtles in these waters to warrant the employment of several men in the business of catching them during the summer months. However, due to the fact that they are migratory in this neighbourhood, over-fishing in the Caribbean area has been reflected in their great scarcity in Bermuda in recent years. The annual catch averages under thirty turtles of 60 to 80 lb. in weight each. The green turtle is sought for its meat and the hawks-bill for its shell.

Apart from the spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), only one other form of shell-fish has any importance locally. That is a mollusc called a mussell (*Arca occidentalis*) which is gathered in small quantities by nipping or dredging. Scallops (*Pecten ziczac*) though once plentiful are now rare.

The entire industry is carried on in somewhat primitive style. Fish are captured by handlines, wire fish traps, pots, or seines. No trawls, drift-nets, or weirs, are used. The operation of trawls is unprofitable owing to loss and damage to nets, caused by the coral bottom surrounding the islands.

The fishing fleet comprises some 60 boats of sizes varying from 16 to 50 feet. A few carry sail only, but most are petrol driven carrying sail for use in emergency or when favourable winds permit. There are only 100 men engaged full time in the fishing trade, and it seems unlikely that numbers will increase unless some special inducement is offered.

The annual catch averages about 900,000 lb. in weight of fish, and approximately 150,000 lb. of lobsters. The value of the catch to the fishermen was estimated to be £78,000 in 1948.

Comprehensive Fishery Bye-Laws, administered through the Fisheries Commiteee of the Board of Trade, restrict the size at which stipulated species may be captured. There is a closed season for the taking of lobsters (1st April to 31st August inclusive) which ensures added protection during the breeding season. There are no fishery wardens or inspectors but there are few serious infringements of the regulations.

Minerals

Building stone is quarried in sufficient quantity to supply all the demands of the building trade, and all buildings in the Colony are built of this local limestone. Road making materials are also obtained locally, but surfacing material has to be imported.

Manufactures

There are no manufacturing industries of any size. Efforts have been made to attract minor industries and there are now several packaging concerns operating. Perfume is made in the Islands from local flowers such as the Easter Lily, Passion Flower, Oleander and Jasmine, and novelties are made from the local cedar wood, and sold among the local people and tourists. There are no village industries.

Tourism

Tourism has been an important feature of Bermuda's economy for over forty years and tourists are some 90 per cent. of all passenger arrivals.

Tourist traffic to the islands was halted completely after the entry of the United States into the war, in December, 1941, during which period Bermuda became a military, naval, and air base. Advertising was continued and the tourist trade was resumed at the first opportunity after the end of hostilities. Steamship services re-opened on a limited scale in 1945 with vessels of 4,700 tons gross, carrying approximately 100 passengers. Aircraft services to the islands expanded rapidly after the war and contributed greatly to restoring the tourist traffic.

The post-war development of the tourist trade is illustrated by the following table :—

TOURISM, 1937 AND 1946–9

Year	*Arrivals*	*Average Stay days*	*Estimated Expenditure £000*
1937	82,817*	—	—
1946	21,715	11·5	1,718
1947	34,304	13·8	3,833
1948	45,051	—	4,255
1949	60,000	—	5,000

* Pre-war record.

Tourist accommodation has risen similarly, and it is estimated that accommodation is now available for 3,000 or more visitors. The bulk of this accommodation is in hotels and guest houses, but private houses take up to 300 or so visitors at any one time.

With increasing ease and rapidity of travel, particularly by air, Bermuda looks forward to further expansion in the tourist traffic, on which the islands are now more than ever dependent.

Other Economic Activities

Distribution

Distribution is carried on by commission merchants acting as manufacturers' representatives and wholesale dealers, and by the retail establishments which they serve. Most of the foodstuffs imported are consigned direct to retailers, but the principal commission merchants also maintain warehouses from which they sell goods wholesale. The larger clothing, hardware, and furniture businesses do most of their buying by direct contact with manufacturers abroad.

Digitized by Google

The bulk of local agricultural produce is purchased wholesale either by the Government marketing centre, or by various retail grocery establishments. Raw milk is sold direct from producers to the various pasteurizers who are responsible for retail distribution. Only milk which has been pasteurized may be sold for human consumption. The bulk of fresh fish is sold wholesale by the fishermen, to firms with refrigeration facilities who distribute it retail. Some fish is sold direct from the fishing boats to the consumer.

Professions

There are 22 practising doctors holding British or Canadian qualifications, and 14 practising dentists of whom 11 hold the D.D.S. degree of the United States of America, two the D.D.S. qualification of Canada, and one the United Kingdom qualification of L.D.S.R.C.S.

There are 38 names on the register of midwives, all fully qualified. The two hospitals depend on Canadian nurses or local girls (for the most part trained in Canada) for their staff.

There are eight law partnerships or firms practising in the Colony, all members were qualified in the United Kingdom.

Employment and Labour Supply

The numbers employed in the principal industries in Bermuda, during 1950, together with the normal hours of work, are shown in the following table :—

EMPLOYMENT AND HOURS OF WORK, 1950

Industry	*Average No. of Employed Persons*	*Weekly Hours of Work*
Agriculture	400	54–60
Building :		
Masons	4–500	44–53
Carpenters	300	44–53
Plumbers	200	44–53
Painters	300	44–53
Public Works Dept. ..	230	44
Light and Power Co. ..	330	44
Hotels	15–1,600	48

Demand for labour has generally been high in recent years ; labour is particularly scarce in the building trade. In the hotel and catering industry, the local labour supply is normally ample. For unskilled labour, the greatest demand comes from the American naval and air bases, and from local building contractors and the hotel and catering industry.

As a general rule one full and one half-day per week are observed as holidays.

Fuel and Power (Including Water)

As the Islands are of coral there are no natural fuel resources, and all fuel used has to be imported. The Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, U.S.A., has a Bulk Plant at St. George's and is the main source of liquid fuels.

Electricity for public and domestic use is supplied by a diesel generating plant owned and operated by the Bermuda Electric Light and Power Company. This Company has seven diesel generators which meet all demands, the peak loading being about 8,000 kW. The American Bases operate their own generating plants.

There is no water power in Bermuda. Fresh water supply is obtained from rain water which is caught from the roofs of the buildings and houses, and is stored in large tanks usually in the basement. Practically every house has its own water pressure system, which consists of a small electric motor pump and galvanised iron pressure tank of 40 gallons capacity ; the pump works automatically cutting in at 20 lb. and out at 40 lb. pressure. Some homes which have been modernised with additional rooms and plumbing, but have not had enlarged the tank capacity, are at times faced with the possibility of being out of fresh water during a dry spell, and to offset this a well may be dug and a pump fitted, but the water obtained is brackish and is used for sanitary purposes only. Modern houses have at least 15,000 gallons storage capacity.

The only water works in Bermuda was started in 1931 in the Parish of Devonshire. The method of obtaining water is by placing open tiled pipes along the foot of high ground near a marsh at sea level. The pipe line is led to a well about 4 ft. deep and the water seeps through into the well. This water is brackish and is treated by lime, soda and chlorine. The works are privately operated. The output of the plant at the present time is 20,000 gallons per day but equipment is being installed whereby it is hoped in the near future to double the output. The water is pumped from the plant into a large reservoir of 50,000 gallons capacity and then flows by gravity to the City of Hamilton, King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Belmont and Elbow Beach Hotels and private homes and business places along the route, where it is used for sanitary purposes, laundries, and all other purposes except human consumption.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The public debt of Bermuda at 31st August, 1950 amounted to £225,000, due entirely to locally inscribed stockholders. Of this total, £25,000 was raised for local purposes and bears interest at 5 per cent., £5,000 being redeemable in 1955 and £20,000 in 1957 ; both interest and redemption are the responsibility of the Bermuda Government, and a sinking fund is in existence. The remaining £200,000 represents the proceeds of a loan raised at 1st March, 1940 and re-lent free of interest to H.M. Government for war purposes. Interest at 3 per cent. is paid to stockholders by the Bermuda Government, H.M. Government being responsible for redemption of the debt, at par, not later than 1956.

A further War Loan, amounting to £600,000, was raised in 1942 and re-lent free of interest to H.M. Government, the Bermuda Government paying interest to stockholders at 2½ per cent., per annum. The principal sum was repaid by H.M. Government and the loan duly redeemed in February, 1949. Subsequently, however, Bermuda has voluntarily and generously provided in the estimates for repayment to the United Kingdom of sums of £30,000 annually together with additional sums representing " interest " at 3 per cent., on the hypothetical diminishing balance of £600,000. Payments in the three years to 1951 total £90,000 as " capital " and £48,600 as " interest ". These sums are, in effect, voluntary contributions towards redemption of Imperial War Loans and payment of interest thereon.

The Colony's reserve fund at 31st August, 1950, amounted to £420,430, in addition to which there was a general revenue surplus (accumulated) of £405,249, a public works reserve fund of £233,704, and a school buildings reserve fund of £1,429, making a total of £1,060,812.

Digitized by Google

In the following table are shown the islands' revenue and expenditure from 1938, together with the annual deficit or surplus :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

Year	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*	*Surplus*
	£	£	£
1938	460,002	452,072	7,930
1939	399,171	428,896	−29,725
1940	394,036	411,812	−17,776
1941	649,717	560,369	89,348
1942	692,128	687,560	4,568
1943	774,839	651,649	123,190
1944	801,571	747,885	53,686
1945	815,657	836,129	−20,472
1946	1,066,102	1,021,705	44,397
1947	1,455,440	1,362,512	92,928
1948	1,531,970	1,531,762	208
1949	1,885,547	1,706,587	178,960
1950*	1,496,080	1,649,049	−152,969
1951*	1,680,838	1,855,648	−174,810

* Estimates.

In the following tables, revenue and expenditure are analysed according to the principal heads, for the year 1938 and for the years 1948–51 :—

services. Their responsibilities include maintenance of streets and wharves, sanitation and sewerage, parks, and a fire brigade. Local taxation is assessed on real estate and personal property ; rates of tax in 1950 and 1951 were 12*s.* 6*d.* per £100 in Hamilton and 13*s.* 7*d.* in St. George.

The nine parishes are responsible for the administration of the poor law, and levy a parish rate ; a further source of parish income is the issue of licences under the Liquor Licence Act.

Currency and Banking

There are two banks in the colony, the Bank of Bermuda, Limited, and the Bank of N. T. Butterfield and Son, Limited ; both provide full banking facilities, including trusteeship facilities. Demand deposits totalled £6,055,402 as at 30th June, 1949, and time deposits (including savings deposits) £2,263,150. The principal assets at the same date were : cash, etc., £2,037,515 ; investments, £3,353,334 ; advances, £3,575,290.

REVENUE, 1938–51

Head	1938	1948	1949	1950*	1951*
	£	£	£	£	£
Miscellaneous	15,955	43,970	50,799	48,750	30,000
Departmental Receipts ..	134,667	348,846	505,910	379,230	469,821
Customs	309,380	1,139,154	1,328,838	1,068,100	1,181,017
	460,002	1,531,970	1,885,547	1,496,080	1,680,838

EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

Head	1938	1948	1949	1950*	1951*
	£	£	£	£	£
Debt and Pensions(†) ..	21,585	98,580	111,189	102,544	100,943
Defence	9,172	16,348	17,682	11,164	44,845
Law and Order(‡)	39,713	101,397	126,860	125,536	141,416
Administration(§)	44,917	95,460	103,863	110,071	115,500
Health(‖)	74,134	130,727	142,130	159,755	185,147
Education	34,991	152,833	193,481	205,576	231,739
Agriculture	8,864	48,705	73,688	92,602	95,810
Board of Trade(¶)	21,207	41,537	48,291	50,166	108,864
Civil Aviation	—	15,682	19,732	18,954	27,147
Public Transport(**)	—	238,740	105,223	115,260	114,857
Post Office	21,979	65,532	63,514	78,243	83,975
Public Works	89,224	249,553	275,101	262,836	262,646
Trade Development	78,780	139,327	146,472	232,680	263,138
Miscellaneous(††)	7,506	40,081	40,730	55,947	57,366
Total Ordinary Expenditure ..	452,072	1,434,502	1,467,956	3,327,921	1,833,393
Extraordinary Expenditure ..	—	22,260	26,131	27,715	22,255
Special Building Reserve ..	—	75,000	162,500	—	—
Reserve Fund	—	—	50,000	—	—
Total Expenditure	452,072	1,531,762	1,706,587	3,355,636	1,855,648

* Estimates.

(†) Comprises Public Debt Charges, Superannuation, and War Pensions and Gratuities.

(‡) Comprises Administration of Justice, Police and Prisons.

(§) Audit, Secretariat, Treasury and Revenue, Executive, Legislative, Immigration, and Registration.

(‖) Comprises Public Health and Hospitals.

(¶) Together with Bermuda Library. The head Board of Trade includes the aquarium and museum, but the department's principal duties are the maintenance of lighthouses, signal stations, and the pilot service.

(**) With costs of transport control.

(††) Including the Contingent Fund (£499) in 1938, the Labour Board from 1948 and the Social Welfare Board from 1949.

Local Government

The City of Hamilton and the Town of St. George derive their revenue principally from wharfage and port dues, local taxes, and rents, together with payments for specific

United Kingdom coins are in circulation and are legal tender, the silver coins without limit. Bermuda Government Notes are issued by the Bermuda Currency Commissioners in denominations of 5*s.*, 10*s.*, £1, and £5 The

Digitized by Google

volume of notes in circulation at 31st December annually in recent years is shown below :—

NOTE CIRCULATION, 1937-50

Year	£
1937 ..	190,943
1938 ..	200,943
1939 ..	210,943
1947 ..	757,346
1948 ..	912,096
1949 ..	884,096
1950 ..	905,846

Particulars of the Government Savings Bank and of War Savings Certificates are given in the section on Social Security.

Private Investment

There is in Bermuda no Registrar of Companies as such, but corporate bodies are required to file certain particulars at the office of the Registrar General. The number of companies so registered in 1950 was 121. No information is available from which to estimate the current rate of investment in Bermuda.

Cost of Living

The cost of living is high, as the islands are almost entirely dependent on imports for their day-to-day needs. Most foodstuffs are imported from the United States of America or from Canada, and their prices reflect the relatively high inland transport and ocean freight charges involved. Imports of frozen meats and canned goods from Australia have been obtained in recent years at lower prices.

The compilation of a Cost of Living Index has been discontinued from 1st February, 1950, as it was felt that the figures had become unrepresentative.

Rents of unfurnished working-class cottages, in 1950–51, were from £6 to £10 per month, and of well-appointed well-situated houses from £20 to £30 per month. Furnished cottages and houses are obtainable at rents of £20 per month or more.

No systematic family budget enquiry has been undertaken in Bermuda, but it was estimated in 1950 that an expenditure of some £10 weekly would be necessary to cover the requirements of a working class family of five persons, as assumed for the former cost of living index.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The trend of visible trade is illustrated by the following table, showing imports, exports and the import surplus for the years from 1938 to 1950 :—

EXTERNAL TRADE, 1938-50

Year	*Imports*	*Re-exports*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Import Surplus*
	£	£	£	£	£
1938	1,906,689	94,940	1,811,749	39,050	1,772,699
1939	1,751,536	76,617	1,674,919	39,039	1,635,880
1940	1,469,504	57,128	1,412,376	26,480	1,385,896
1941	2,422,106	81,674	2,340,432	43,326	2,297,106
1942	4,388,935	65,672	4,323,263	36,874	4,286,389
1943	2,581,756	118,245	2,463,511	40,308	2,423,203
1944	2,465,678	74,392	2,391,286	33,895	2,357,391
1945	2,444,472	107,498	2,336,974	35,422	2,310,552
1946	3,612,128	231,817	3,380,311	29,628	3,350,683
1947	6,004,840	735,608	5,269,232	44,859	5,224,373
1948	7,121,039	925,277	6,195,762	30,128	6,165,634
1949	7,182,178	902,670	6,279,508	40,541	6,238,967
1950	8,208,376	925,660	7,282,716	36,987	7,245,729

Bermuda's imports cover a wide range of foodstuffs, raw materials, and manufactured articles, of all the kinds required by a modern community of European extraction, enjoying a high standard of living, but having limited resources and scarcely any manufactures of its own. Exports, on the other hand, are confined to a restricted range of agricultural products. The principal imports and exports are shown in the following tables for the pre-war year 1938 and for 1949 and 1950 :—

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in £000s.	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in £000s	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in £000s
Beef, fresh	Tons	634	40,928	U.S.A. (16), S. America (15), Canada (11).	940	165,331	Australia (101), U.S.A. (32), Canada (30), Argentina (3).	933	206,501	Australia (107), Canada (47), U.S.A. (39), Argentina (8), Eire (5).
Mutton, fresh	,,	317	17,987	S. America (7), Canada (5), U.S.A. (5).	467	65,906	Australia (49), U.S.A. (7), Canada (5), New Zealand (4), Argentina (1).	354	60,680	Australia (47), Canada (10), U.S.A. (4).
Poultry and Game	,,	265	28,716	U.S.A. (13), Canada (8), S. America (7).	322	100,092	U.S.A. (68), Canada (18), Australia (8), Argentina (5).	384	123,741	U.S.A. (96), Canada (13), Australia (12), Brit. W. Indies (2).
Meat, canned or bottled	Packages	13,097	25,637	S. America (6), Denmark (5), U.S.A. (5), U.K. (4), Canada (4).	23,013	84,953	U.S.A. (33), Australia (28), Denmark (11), Canada (7), Argentina (3), U.K. (1).	18,892	118,221	Australia (62), Denmark (38), U.S.A. (5), Canada (5), Argentina (4).
Butter	Tons	335	39,823	New Zealand (29), U.K. (4), Canada (3), Australia (3).	274	68,852	New Zealand (48), Australia (13), U.S.A. (6), U.K. (2).	433	120,990	Australia (117), New Zealand (3).
Eggs, fresh	Doz.	198,954	14,615	Canada (9), U.S.A. (6) ..	406,792	62,712	Canada (49), U.S.A. (13) ..	471,240	77,854	Canada (69), U.S.A. (7), Brit. W. Indies (2).
Milk and Cream, fresh	Galls.	8,357	4,004	U.S.A. (3), Canada (1) ..	3,156	5,630	U.S.A. (5), Canada (1) ..	14,193	11,696	U.S.A. (7), Canada (5)
,, ,, ,, condensed	...	{ 43,088	22,693	Canada (12), Netherlands (9) ..	...	10,761	Canada (9), U.S.A. (2) ..	3,301	7,726	Canada (5), Australia (1)
Milk, evaporated, canned and dried	Packages			U.S.A. (1)	} 63,873	105,254	Canada (75), U.S.A. (30) ..	53,885	95,553	Canada (85), U.S.A. (6)
,, dried	Tons	—	—	—	88	16,631	U.S.A. (9), Canada (6), U.K. (2)	83	18,316	Canada (11), Australia (3), U.K. (2).
Flour	,,	1,933	24,879	Canada (24), U.S.A. (1) ..	2,141	74,903	Canada (74·6), U.S.A. (0·3) ..	2,058	81,930	Canada (82)
Sugar	,,	1,536	13,932	U.K. (12), U.S.A. (2)	1,298	51,146	Brit. W. Indies (41), U.K. (7), U.S.A. (3).	1,584	72,203	Brit. W. Indies (52), U.K. (19)
Citrus, fresh	,,	...	...	—	800	42,337	U.S.A. (32), Brit. W. Indies (10), Brazil (1).	...	34,646	U.S.A. (22), Brit. W. Indies (12)
Other Fruit, fresh	,,	...	38,272	U.S.A. (22), Brit. W. Indies (13), Canada (2), S. America (1).	1,195	66,546	U.S.A. (35), Brit. W. Indies (16), Canada (14), Australia (1).	908	62,359	U.S.A. (32), Canada (16), Brit. W. Indies (13), S. Africa (1).
Vegetables, fresh	,,	...	17,126	U.S.A. (14), Canada (2), Brit. W. Indies (1).	896	49,049	U.S.A. (35), Canada (10), Brit. W. Indies (4).	830	53,392	U.S.A. (37), Canada (13), Brit. W. Indies (3).
,, canned or bottled	Packages	25,107	13,484	Canada (9), U.S.A. (4) ..	56,565	50,508	U.S.A. (29), Canada (20), U.K. (1).	54,569	57,721	Canada (26), U.S.A. (26), U.K. (1), Australia (1).
Malt Liquor	Galls.	290,669	34,493	U.K. (27), Netherlands (5), Germany (2), Canada (1).	534,165	105,195	Canada (39), U.K. (29), U.S.A. (28), Netherlands (5), Germany (2).	259,820	101,809	U.K. (47), Netherlands (40), Germany (7), Denmark (6).
Whisky	,,	25,815	28,762	U.K. (24), Canada (5)	77,827	125,445	Canada (65), U.K. (53), U.S.A. (7).	88,080	158,042	Canada (88), U.K. (56), U.S.A. (14).
Tobacco	...	...	31,573	U.S.A. (21), U.K. (8), Brit. W. Indies (2), Cuba (1), India (1).	...	85,297	U.S.A. (61), U.K. (17), Brit. W. Indies (6), Netherlands (1).	...	104,267	U.S.A. (79), U.K. (18), Brit. W. Indies (5), Cuba (2).
Timber	'000 ft.	2,403	28,940	U.S.A. (22), Canada (6), Brit. W. Indies (1).	3,385	122,962	U.S.A. (86), Canada (34), Honduras (3).	2,508	114,957	U.S.A. (80), Canada (35)
Footwear, leather	...	...	33,024	U.S.A. (25), U.K. (6), Hong Kong (1).	...	112,248	U.S.A. (78), U.K. (33), Canada (1).	...	170,089	U.S.A. (105), U.K. (59), Canada (4), Hong Kong (2).
Cotton Piece Goods	Sq. yds.	134,310	5,958	U.K. (4), U.S.A. (2)	221,918	48,597	U.S.A. (33), U.K. (13), Italy (1), Canada (1), France (1).	379,694	72,184	U.S.A. (41), U.K. (25), Italy (4)
,, Clothing	...	...	41,088	U.S.A. (31), U.K. (7), Canada (2).	...	239,060	U.S.A. (178), U.K. (54), Canada (6), France (1).	...	354,201	U.S.A. (279), U.K. (59), Brit. W. Indies (8), Canada (5), France (2).

Digitized by Google

Other Cotton Goods	...	...	16,061	U.S.A. (10), U.K. (5), Canada (1).	...	113,468	U.S.A. (91), U.K. (18), Canada (5).	...	98,527	U.S.A. (77), U.K. (19), Canada (2).
Woollen Piece Goods	Sq. yds.	47,707	16,316	U.K. (15·5)	42,831	44,549	U.K. (44·4), U.S.A. (0·1) ..	74,663	54,918	U.K. (53), U.S.A. (1)
Woollen Clothing	...	...	82,827	U.K. (72), U.S.A. (8), France (2), Canada (1).	...	255,649	U.K. (197), U.S.A. (51), Canada (5), France (1), Italy (1).	...	347,164	U.K. (279), U.S.A. (60), Italy (5), Canada (2).
Rayon Clothing	...	...	9,738	U.S.A. (7), Canada (1), U.K. (1)	...	107,995	U.S.A. (99), U.K. (8), Canada (2).	...	156,931	U.S.A. (148), U.K. (7), Canada (1).
Hardware	...	...	52,508	U.S.A. (34), U.K. (9), Canada (8), Belgium (1).	...	189,978	U.S.A. (109), U.K. (73), Canada (7), Sweden (2).	...	139,896	U.K. (65), U.S.A. (65), Canada (8), Sweden (1).
Furniture	...	...	38,928	U.S.A. (25), Canada (10), U.K. (3).	...	149,324	U.S.A. (64), U.K. (50), Canada (29), Brit. W. Indies (3), Netherlands (2).	...	184,231	U.K. (77), U.S.A. (68), Canada (34), Brit. W. Indies (3).
Electrical Supplies	...	...	89,295	U.S.A. (54), U.K. (26), Canada (8).	...	314,506	U.S.A. (134), U.K. (125, Canada (38), Belgium (14), Netherlands (3).	...	356,283	U.S.A. (183), U.K. (143), Canada (23), Belgium (4), Netherlands (2).
Jewellery	...	...	682	U.S.A. (0·3), Japan (0·2) ..	...	35,843	U.S.A. (17), U.K. (9), Canada (5), France (3), Brit. W. Indies (1).	...	110,427	U.K. (86), U.S.A. (15), Canada (4), Brit. W. Indies (2).
Motor Vehicles	...	13	2,277	U.S.A. (1), U.K. (1)	595	164,082	U.K. (155), U.S.A. (8), Italy (1)	...	173,961	U.K. (167), U.S.A. (7)
Motor Vehicle Parts	...	...	720	U.S.A. (0·5), U.K. (0·2) ..	...	63,065	U.K. (54), U.S.A. (8), Canada (1).	...	52,631	U.K. (45), U.S.A. (6), Canada (1).
Gasoline	'000 galls.	279	6,326	U.S.A. (4), Canada (2) ..	9,813	465,133	Netherlands W. Indies (368), U.S.A. (97).	5,998	414,383	Netherlands W. Indies (342), Brit. W. Indies (72).
Diesel Oil	Tons	7,922	13,856	Brit. W. Indies (8), Netherlands W. Indies (4), U.S.A. (3).	9,580	65,724	Netherlands W. Indies (39), U.S.A. (27).	12,145	102,233	...
Other	...	...	1,071,221	...	...	3,353,447	...	...	3,737,713	...
Total Imports	...	...	1,906,689	...	...	7,182,178	...	...	8,208,376	...

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS 1938, 1949 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s
Cut Flowers (Buds and Stems) ..	Packages	6,882	19,539	U.S.A. (11), U.K. (8)	20,707	32,580	U.S.A. (31), Canada (1) ..	13,259	30,736	U.S.A. (28), Canada (2), U.K. (1)
Lily Bulbs	Cases	1,949	4,746	U.S.A. (4), U.K. (1)	1,211	7,164	U.S.A. (6·6), Canada (0·5) ..	895	3,686	U.S.A. (3), Canada (1)
Potatoes	Crates	6,310	1,611	Canada (0·8), U.K. (0·5) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomatoes	Barrels	2,121	1,907	U.S.A. (1·9)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vegetables	Crates	54,436	11,056	Canada (10·8), Brit. W. Indies (0·2).	950	523	Brit. W. Indies (0·5)	1,999	1,695	Brit. W. Indies
Other	...	...	191	...	...	274	...	...	870	...
Total Domestic Exports ..		...	39,050	...	...	40,541	...	...	36,987	...

PRINCIPAL RE-EXPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in £000s
Barrels, Casks, etc., empty ..	Packages	21,487	45,469	U.S.A. (32), U.K. (8), Canada (3), Brit. W. Indies (2).	1,235	3,660	Brit. W. Indies (2), U.S.A. (1) ..	1,498	4,054	Brit. W. Indies (2), U.S.A. (2)
Yachts and Fittings	No.	16	19,110	U.S.A. (17), Canada (2) ..	18	9,660	U.S.A. (9·4), Canada (0·1), U.K. (0·1).	17	2,011	U.S.A. (1·4), U.K. (0·5)
Motor Vehicles and Parts	...	—	—	—	...	16,477	U.S.A. (8), Brit. W. Indies (4), U.K. (3).	...	24,243	U.K. (12), U.S.A. (9), Brit. W. Indies (3).
Gas Cylinders	No.	2,297	6,481	Canada (3), U.S.A. (3) ..	9,802	41,770	U.S.A. (20), Brit. W. Indies (15), Canada (7).	14,179	50,459	Canada (26), U.S.A. (24)
Hardware	...	...	7,342	U.S.A. (7·2), Canada (0·1), U.K. (0·1).	...	10,146	Brit. W. Indies (9·6), U.S.A. (0·5).		2,283	U.S.A. (1), U.K. (0·6), Canada (0·4), Brit. W. Indies (0·2).
Household Effects	...	...	423	U.K. (0·2), U.S.A. (0·1), Brit. W. Indies (0·1).	...	9,440	U.S.A. (6), Brit. W. Indies (2), Canada (1).	...	14,016	U.S.A. (10), Canada (4)
Personal Effects	...	...	...	...	...	83,317	U.S.A. (65), Canada (7), U.K. (6), Brit. W. Indies (4).	...	119,124	U.S.A. (89), Canada (16), U.K. (9), Brit. W. Indies (5).
Liquor*	Packages	...	...	...	...	36,168	...	...	62,751	...
Bunkers†	...	...	...	...	...	435,411	...	...	461,841	...
Other	...	...	16,115	...	...	257,379	...	...	184,878	...
Total Re-exports	...	...	94,940	...	...	902,670	...	...	925,660	...

* Including Ships' Stores and Passengers' Baggage.
† Solid and Liquid Fuels, Lubricating Oils and Greases furnished to Ships and Aircraft.

Digitized by Google

The direction of Bermuda's visible trade is illustrated by the following tables :—

IMPORTS, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, 1937–50

Year	United Kingdom		Canada		United States of America		Other Countries	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
1937	719,401	33·0	316,824	14·5	866,021	39·7	280,906	12·9
1938	559,716	29·4	278,334	14·6	836,553	43·9	232,086	12·2
1939	427,183	24·4	288,204	16·5	813,910	46·5	222,239	12·7
1946	547,150	15·1	990,011	27·4	1,946,105	53·9	128,862	3·6
1947	1,161,514	19·3	1,168,065	19·5	3,321,072	55·3	354,189	5·9
1948	1,792,833	25·2	1,011,995	14·2	3,375,453	47·4	940,758	13·2
1949	1,937,588	27·0	887,304	12·4	3,174,150	44·2	1,183,136	16·5
1950	2,430,624	29·6	960,565	11·7	3,212,776	39·1	1,604,411	19·6

DOMESTIC EXPORTS, BY COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION, 1937–50

Year	United Kingdom		Canada		United States of America		Other Countries*	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
1937	16	0·0	4,148	12·8	26,541	82·1	1,616	5·0
1938	9,140	23·4	12,408	31·8	17,004	43·5	498	1·3
1939	1,700	4·4	14,150	36·2	22,615	57·9	574	1·5
1946	—	—	50	0·0	25,820	87·1	3,758	12·7
1947	24	0·0	—	—	44,532	99·3	303	0·7
1948	139	0·5	1,244	4·1	26,884	89·2	1,862	6·2
1949	176	0·4	1,988	4·9	37,657	92·9	721	1·8
1950	625	1·7	2,202	6·0	32,013	86·6	2,147	5·8

* Entirely British West Indies in most years.

The principal receipts on invisible account comprise expenditure in the islands by tourists, mainly from the Western Hemisphere, services rendered to the United States Base, and services to shipping and aircraft calling at the islands. Receipts from tourism have been estimated at some £1,178,000 in 1946, £3,833,000 in 1947, £4,255,000 in 1948 and £5m., or more in 1949. No estimate is available of the remaining items of invisible receipts.

There are a number of outgoing invisible items, including travel expenditure abroad by Bermuda residents, school and medical fees payable abroad, trade development expenses, tourist agency commissions, and insurance costs ; the total of these items has been estimated for 1948 at approximately $3m., or £750,000.

No estimate is available of the amount of capital transfers to and from the islands.

Digitized by Google

BRITISH GUIANA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical features

British Guiana lies on the north-east of the continent of South America, between Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam, between latitudes 1° and 9° N. and longitudes 56° and 62° W. Its coastline is 270 miles in length, and its area is estimated at 83,000 square miles (about the same as that of Great Britain); 86 per cent. is forest and 10·5 per cent. savannah, the remainder forming the coastal belt, where nearly the whole of the population lives.

Guiana is an American Indian word meaning "the Land of Waters". Though there are no lakes of any size, there is a large network of rivers covering the whole country. The four most important of these are the Courantyne, Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo; in the case of the last three the countries through which they flow are named after them, and the same applies to other areas in the interior of the country. With few exceptions the rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean. They are generally navigable for distances varying from 40 to 100 miles from the mouth, but in their upper reaches they have falls and rapids which hinder access to the interior. The colony runs from 300 to 550 miles inland, so that the navigable distances are comparatively short.

The coastal belt, which is mainly below sea-level, is about 10 miles deep; its soil is rich, and it is extensively cultivated for sugar and rice growing. A large and complex system of dykes and canals has been constructed to keep the sea out and prevent flooding. The savannahs are generally 300–400 feet above sea-level; their soil is poor and only suitable for rough grazing. Most of the interior is fairly flat and does not rise above 1,000 feet above sea-level, but in the west there is a mountain range, the Pakaraima, with peaks going up to as much as 9,000 feet, on the frontier with Brazil, and further south there are two other mountain areas, the Kanaku and the Akarai, which go up to about 3,000 feet. These mountain ranges are densely wooded and are believed to have good land in their valleys. The dense tropical forests which cover almost the whole of the interior may contain as many as 200 species of trees.

The capital of the Colony, Georgetown, which is also the chief port, lies at the mouth of the Demerara River. The only other town, New Amsterdam, is about five miles up the Berbice River.

On the coast the temperature shows little variation, either daily or throughout the year. The mean monthly shade temperature is from 79° to 82°F., the mean maximum from 83° to 88°, and the mean minimum from 74° to 76°. The daily range is seldom as much as 14°, and the maximum shade temperature is hardly ever as much as 90°. In the interior temperatures are rather higher, the mean being 82·6°. Rainfall is about 90 inches annually on the coast and 60 inches in the savannahs in the interior. Over most of the country there are two wet seasons, from the middle of April to the middle of August, and from the middle of November until the end of January, but in the savannahs the rainy season is from May to August, while it is dry from October to February. Rainfall thus varies a great deal, and occasionally the end-of-year rainy season on the coast does not materialise. The mean relative humidity is high, varying from 88 per cent. in the mornings to 75 per cent. in the afternoons, and rising again at night. Over the whole year the daily average of sunshine is rather over six hours, and in the dry season there is an average of 10 hours of sunshine daily; it is seldom cloudy except when rain is falling. During most of the year there are steady sea breezes, from the north to north-east, during the day-time, which make living conditions for Europeans pleasant, and from January to March there are winds at night also. British Guiana is not subject to hurricanes.

Population

The total population of British Guiana was officially estimated at 437,022 on 31st December, 1951. At the time of the last census, held in April, 1946, the population was divided as follows between the various racial groups:

		Per cent.
East Indians	163,434	43·51
Africans	143,385	38·17
Mixed or coloured ..	37,685	10·03
Amerindians	16,322	4·35
Portuguese	8,543	2·27
Chinese	3,567	0·99
Europeans (other than Portuguese)	2,480	0·66
Other Asiatics	236	0·01
Unclassified	49	—
Total	375,701	100·0

More than a quarter of the population (94,035 in 1946) are in the capital, Georgetown, and its environs; the population of the rest of the county of Demerara was 126,064 in 1946, and that of the counties of Berbice and Essequibo 96,623 and 58,439 respectively. The population of the capital of Berbice, New Amsterdam, was 9,567.

Excluding Amerindians living in remote rural districts, the population of working age (15–64) was 216,311 (107,664 males and 108,647 females), and the remainder (under 15 or over 64) was 154,367 (76,415 males and 77,542 females), the great majority of these being children under 15. The number of persons gainfully employed was 146,164 (105,584 males and 40,580 females). The school-age population (5–14 years) was 87,356, and the total child population under 15 was 139,283.

Until about 1926 there was no natural growth of population in the colony, and it was maintained or increased by immigration. This state of affairs was largely due to bad health conditions. Between the censuses of 1931 and 1946, however, there was a natural increase of 62,298; since 1917 large-scale immigration has not taken place, and in the same period (between the two censuses) increase in population due to migration was only 1,872. Since the campaign against malaria, with the use of D.D.T., was begun in 1946, health conditions have improved still further, and the rate of natural increase has correspondingly risen. Over the period 1926 to 1946 the birth rate averaged 32·7 per 1,000, and the death rate 21·6 per 1,000; the infant mortality rate was 131 per 1,000. The estimated rate of increase in the population is now approximately 2·7 per cent. per annum.

From 1946 onwards birth, death, and infant mortality rates have been as follows:—

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Birth rate	*Death rate*	*Infant Mortality (per '000 live births)*	*Live births*	*Estimated Population (end of year)*
1946	36·1	15·8	87	13,430	381,906
1947	40·0	15·0	87	15,209	391,438
1948	42·5	14·7	78	16,612	403,196
1949	42·5	13·7	77	17,137	414,887
1950	41·0	15·1	86	16,985	425,156
1951	42·6	13·6	77	18,357	437,022

Digitized by Google

BRITISH GUIANA
PART OF SEA COAST

Scale
Miles 0 1 2 3 4 5 10 15 Miles 20

REFERENCE

Principal Roads
Railways
Sugar Estates
Rice *
Coconuts
Irrigation Canals

*Rice is not necessarily grown over the whole of these areas

BRITISH GUIANA

Scale
Miles 10 5 0 10 20 30 Miles 40

REFERENCE

International Boundary
Roads
Tracks
Railways
Airports
Airstrips

61°W 60°W 59°W 58°W 57°W
8°N 7°N 6°N 5°N 4°N 3°N 2°N

ATLANTIC OCEAN

COURANTYNE RIVER
Canje R.
NEW AMSTERDAM
Berbice R.
BERBICE RIVER
Abary R.
MAHAICONY-ABARY
Mahaicony
ABARY RIVER
MAHAICONY RIVER
MAHAICA RIVER
Demerara R.
GEORGETOWN
DEMERARA RIVER
LEGUAN ISLAND
HOG ISLAND
WAKENAAM ISLAND
ESSEQUIBO RIVER
Suddie
Charity

SHELL BEACH
Barima R.
Waini River
Baramanni
Barima River
Waini River
Cuyuni River
AURORA
MANAKA
Wejaarey R.
Mazaruni River
IMBAIMADAI
CHI-CHI
PAKARAIMA MTS.
ORINDUIK
KATO
Ireng R.
KAIETEUR FALLS
KURINGIKU MOUNTAINS
Potaro Landing
Potaro R.
Siparuni R.
Burro-Burro R.
Kurupukari
Maipuri Landing
ESSEQUIBO RIVER
Charity
Suddie
Wakenaam Island
Leguan I.
Hog Island
Mora
Stamp Is.
Stampa
Cane Grove
Mahaicony
ATKINSON FIELD
Sill's Ry
Bartica
BARTICA TRIANGLE
Mazaruni River
Rockstone
Mackenzie
NEW AMSTERDAM
Rosignal
Canje River
Mahaicony R.
Abary R.
Mara
Demerara R.
Takama (Paradise)
WEBINI
Kwakwani
Berbice River
Orealla
COURANTYNE R.
Epira
Courantyne River
KARASABAI
Trains Annai
Rupununi
SAVANNAHS
Cattle
KARANAMBO
GORINSKY'S STRIP
Kurupung River
Umato
MANARI
KLETHEM
KANUKU MOUNTAINS
Rupunum River
Takatu River
WICHABAI
KOADANAWA
SHEA
MORURA-WAU
AWARRAWOWNOW
RUPUNUNI DISTRICT
LUMID BAU
Kuyuwini River
GUNN'S STRIP
Essequibo River
KAMOA MOUNTAINS
AMUKU MOUNTAINS
Iliwa River
New River
Courantyne River

KEY

Sugar Estates
Bauxite Deposits
" Mines
Gold
Diamonds
Forest Exploitation Areas
Savannahs
Alluvial Coastal Strip
Irrigation Canals

Crown Copyright Reserved (Facing Page 56)
1618-4041-1625-1/53. (M. F. P.)

Digitized by Google

G

Sc
be
62
ar
th
pe
be

L
th
cc
C
ca
fl
ar
th
g
m
h
T
n

a
c
c
t
a
p
i
a
t
f
t
v
a
i
a
2

t

Digitized by Google

Birth-rates and death-rates vary considerably among the different racial groups. The following table shows the position over the periods 1931–45 and 1946–50 :—

Racial group	*Average annual Birth-rates*				*Average annual Death-rates*				*Actual natural increase*	
	1931–35	1936–40	1941–45	1946–50	1931–35	1936–40	1941–45	1946–50	1931–45	1946–50
Amerindian	39·8	42·3	40·5	37·2	31·3	35·2	30·3	25·4	1,182	697
Portuguese	19·9	20·8	19·6	20·5	19·7	19·8	19·2	13·8	75	283
Other European ..	12·9	12·9	18·7	16·1	15·7	11·8	13·8	6·8	43	163
African	27·1	26·9	28·4	33·7	21·5	21·0	21·1	16·6	12,833	12,560
East Indian	37·1	38·0	40·6	45·5	25·4	23·3	19·6	13·7	35,299	28,612
Chinese	19·4	20·3	20·0	20·9	12·5	10·8	10·4	10·3	444	190
Mixed, etc.	35·4	31·4	35·0	40·9	14·9	13·3	12·4	8·8	12,422	7,999
Total	32·2	32·2	34·5	39·3	22·5	21·2	19·5	14·4	62,298	50,283

The East Indian group has the highest rate of natural increase, and it has been estimated that it is likely to constitute half the population by 1963.

In recent years the amount of migration to or from other countries has not been large. Over the period 1931–46 the figures for the various racial groups are as follows :—

	In (+) or Out (−)
Amerindian	—
Portuguese	− 492
Other European	+ 274
African	+ 815
East Indian	− 430
Chinese	+ 218
Mixed, etc.	+ 1,487
Total	+ 1,872

The total of arrivals was 111,425, and of departures 109,553. Within the country there has been migration from the rural areas, which have nearly all gone down in population, into the two cities, Georgetown, which gained by 19,040, and New Amsterdam, which gained by 2,111, in the period 1931–46. According to censuses in other colonies in 1946, 4,864 natives of British Guiana were then living abroad, 3,248 of them in Trinidad and Tobago.

The following tables (from the census of 1946) show the numbers of male and female workers in various industries and occupational groups :—

EMPLOYMENT IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

Industries	*Numbers employed*		
	Both sexes	*Males*	*Females*
Agriculture	61,125	45,227	15,898
Quarrying, mining ..	4,139	4,108	31
Fishing, hunting	1,430	1,368	62
Forestry	4,899	4,807	92
Manufacture, repair ..	23,216	16,961	6,255
Construction	7,247	7,074	173
Transport	6,195	5,953	242
Trade and finance ..	12,038	8,001	4,037
Professional service ..	5,918	3,245	2,673
Public service	5,974	5,451	523
Personal Service	4,930	1,451	3,479
Domestic service ..	7,918	896	7,022
Ill-defined	1,135	1,042	93
Total	146,164	105,584	40,580

Occupational groups	*Both sexes*	*Males*	*Females*
Farmers, farm managers	19,289	17,025	2,264
Farm labourers	40,812	27,199	13,613
Quarrying and mining occupations	3,247	3,241	6
Fishing and hunting occupations	1,434	1,373	61
Forestry occupations ..	4,532	4,446	86
Factory and workshop occupations	19,970	14,361	5,609
Construction occupations	6,541	6,537	4
Transport and communication occupations ..	4,647	4,520	127
Trade occupations ..	9,479	5,761	3,718
Finance and insurance occupations	158	155	3
Recreational service occupations	126	116	10
Professional service occupations	4,643	2,522	2,121
Public service occupations	2,604	2,563	41
Personal service occupations	14,719	3,534	11,185
Clerical occupations ..	4,550	3,602	948
Labourers (not in primary industries)	9,105	8,380	725
Occupation not stated ..	308	249	59
Total gainfully occupied	146,164	105,584	40,580

Social Amenities

Education

Primary education is free for all children between 5 and 16 years of age, and compulsory from 6 to 14 years. In 1951 there were 269 primary schools ; 199 were fully State-aided, and the remaining 70, situated mostly in remote areas and controlled generally by religious denominations, were assisted with grants provided by the state. There were a few private primary schools, mainly in the capital, Georgetown. Six private nursery schools receive Government aid also. 252 of the State-aided primary schools were in the hands of one or other of the religious denominations ; 13 were Government-controlled and four were undenominational. The appointment of teachers in all types of primary schools receiving aid from the State is subject to the approval of the Director of Education. Under an agreement reached in 1946 the Government is responsible for the maintenance of all school buildings owned by the denominations, and Government also pays the salaries of all teachers. At the present time there is insufficient accommodation in the primary schools, but a school building programme designed to bring about some improvement in this respect is in progress.

In 1951 there were two Government-owned secondary schools—Queen's College for boys and Bishops' High School for girls—and one grant-aided secondary school. In addition there were 36 private secondary schools. A Government Training College for Teachers provides 20 teachers of both sexes annually. Teachers employed in primary schools numbered 1,799, of whom about 20 per cent. were trained. The pupil teacher system is used, and of the teachers employed 179 fell in this category.

Digitized by Google

Ten trade, handicraft and domestic science centres were either owned or fully aided by Government. There are no university facilities in British Guiana, but the Government provides two scholarships—one for boys and one for girls—for University training annually, and contributes also to the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica. A resident tutor for extra-mural education in the Colony has been appointed.

According to the census in 1946 persons over 10 years of age unable to read or write amounted to 21 per cent. of the total population. As shown in the following table, the percentage of illiteracy varied widely in the different racial groups :—

ILLITERACY

Population— 10 years of age and over	*Per cent. of illiteracy*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Amerindians	48·11	52·87	49·55
Portuguese	2·05	4·72	3·48
Other European	1·65	0·42	1·10
Black	2·31	3·05	2·70
East Indian	30·34	59·00	44·02
Chinese	8·39	4·49	6·64
Other Asiatic	10·74	7·41	9·41
Mixed or coloured ..	2·96	3·45	3·23
Total	16·08	26·45	21·36

The proportion of illiteracy rises steadily with age ; for example in the age-group 10 to 14 it was found to be only 8·65 per cent., and in the age-group 65 and over 32·58 per cent. This no doubt reflects the improvement of educational facilities in the colony. At the census of 1881, the proportion of persons over five years of age able to read was 348 per 1,000 ; by 1921 it had risen to 495 per 1,000, and by 1946 to 761 per 1,000.

Of the total population of 75,620 in the compulsory school-age range in 1950, 64,328 were on the primary school registers, excluding those of the private primary schools, so that primary education can be said to be practically universal. There were also approximately 3,900 pupils over 14 years of age in secondary schools giving an academic education, and 166 in the Carnegie Trade School for Women, at that time the only vocational institution functioning.

Health

In the past health conditions in British Guiana have not been good, mainly owing to the prevalence of malaria, which has been endemic, and has been the principal cause of deaths. The position has, however, been entirely changed by the mosquito control programme begun in 1947, with the use of D.D.T., which has practically eliminated malaria on the coast and had given protection to 98 per cent. of the population by the end of 1950; anti-malaria spraying is now being extended to the interior. Other principal causes of death are respiratory infections, mainly pneumonia and bronchitis, nephritis, and intestinal infection (enteric fevers, dysentery, etc.), resulting from poor sanitary conditions. The number of deaths from tuberculosis is not particularly great. Venereal diseases are fairly prevalent. There are about 1,100 cases of leprosy in British Guiana, and about one-third of them are in a leper colony ; all are receiving treatment. For the last 50 years there have been only occasional cases of yellow fever.

British Guiana has five public general hospitals, and a mental hospital, a tuberculosis sanatorium, and a leper hospital. As well there is one private general hospital and 21 hospitals on estates of sugar plantations, mainly for the use of their employees.

The British Guiana Infant Welfare and Maternity League provides clinics for mothers and infants. It is a quasi-official body almost entirely dependent on Government funds. It also carries on a subsidised midwifery service in rural areas.

The prevalence of malaria in the past has undoubtedly been a severe check on the development of the Colony, as it has been responsible for so much ill-health and lethargy, and has prevented the growth of population. Together with hookworm, it still seriously affects the Amerindian population in the interior, which remains comparatively primitive, and has only just been holding its own numerically. A medical officer has been engaged on a special medical survey of the Amerindian areas and has introduced measures which have already resulted in improvement in the health of the Amerindian community.

Housing

Working-class housing conditions in the Colony leave much to be desired, and the growth of population in recent years is making the position steadily worse, as comparatively little new building has been taking place. The returns made in the Census of 1946 show that the great majority of the population live either in rooms in tenement buildings or in single-storey houses or huts. Of the total number of dwellings, 35·5 per cent. consisted of the former and 62·0 per cent. of the latter, and they housed 29·0 per cent. and 67·0 per cent. of the population respectively. In the towns tenements predominated, being 58·5 per cent. of the total in Georgetown and 54·6 per cent. of the total in New Amsterdam. Of all dwellings, 58·6 per cent. had one bedroom, and 31·0 per cent. two bedrooms. Throughout the Colony, the average number of persons per bedroom was 2·66, and just under 50 per cent. of the total population were living at densities of over three persons to a bedroom. The average density was generally rather higher in the rural districts than in the towns.

In 1945 a housing survey was carried out in the capital, Georgetown. Of 7,994 houses surveyed, 2,309 were found to be unfit for human habitation, 5,303 to be in need of repair and only 382 structurally sound. The great majority of dwellings are rented ; rents averaged 14s. 6d. per month. It was estimated that 5,765 new houses were needed for replacement and 1,165 to relieve overcrowding. A small municipal scheme for housing 48 families has since been carried out ; the cost of the flats erected has amounted to $2,200 per dwelling, including land and the preparation of the site.

Housing conditions in the rural areas are often very unsatisfactory also. On the sugar estates, so long as the companies made use of indentured labour, they provided housing accommodation, but since 1917, when the indenture system ended, they have had no legal obligation in this respect. Nevertheless, rather more than half the population of the estates has continued to live in company-owned housing, many of them in the old-fashioned " ranges "—barrack-like dwellings, the condition of which is very poor—and they often pay no rent, a relic of the days when the estates provided accommodation along with employment. At the end of 1949 there were 1,000 of these " ranges ". The growth of population on the coastal belt is likely to make the housing problem an increasingly serious one.

The sugar companies have, however, voluntarily accepted an obligation to see that the nucleus of permanent workers on the estates, amounting to about 5,000 families, is properly housed, and at the end of 1949 cottages for about 3,300 families had been built, leaving 1,700 families to be provided for. There were at that time also about 6,500 families of non-essential workers, or persons not working on the estates, to be rehoused. In estate rehousing schemes, the arrangement usually followed is that the estate provides building plots with roads, water supply, drains, etc., and very often a loan to the prospective occupier to enable him to build ; a nominal rent is charged on the site. It is now proposed that the considerable sums in the hands of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund should be used towards the costs of rehousing. The cost of building detached or semi-detached cottages on the estates is from $800 to $1,200 ; these costs appear to be typical of those for rural housing generally.

Digitized by Google

Elsewhere than on the estates a rather similar policy is being followed in regard to rehousing, the government taking the place of the estate owners in preparing plots for settlement (i.e., laying out sites and providing a pure water supply) and making loans for house-building. Rural owners (with incomes of under $60 per month) can make a deposit of one-sixth of the cost of building (up to a maximum of $650) and receive a Government grant of one-third, and a loan of half, the cost. In the case of repairs a deposit of one-quarter is required, and a Government grant of one-quarter, and a loan of half, the cost is given. Schemes of this sort are being carried out on abandoned sugar estates ; so far they are on a comparatively small scale, but some hundreds of persons have been rehoused. In some cases they are being combined with the further development of rice cultivation. The Demerara Bauxite Company has also provided houses for its employees at Mackenzie.

Legislation regarding Housing and Town Planning came into effect in 1946, setting up a Central Housing and Planning Authority with power to control all housing either directly or through the local authorities. It can prepare housing schemes, declare areas for clearance and bring about redevelopment, and acquire land or buildings by purchase or compulsorily. The Authority also has powers to make planning schemes in any area, urban or rural, to control development, secure proper sanitary conditions, co-ordinate roads and public services, and protect amenities. A plan has already been made for rebuilding the centre of Georgetown, which suffered seriously as the result of a fire in 1945, and the administrative and economic aspects of a housing improvement policy for the city are being studied, and rural housing schemes are also being prepared. Clearance of overcrowded slum areas in Georgetown is now being carried out.

Rent restriction was introduced in 1941, and has been extended to cover all dwelling houses in the Colony, furnished or unfurnished. Rents are generally fixed at a level of 10 per cent. above pre-war. Tenants are protected against ejection unless suitable alternative accommodation is available.

Building costs were by the end of 1949 about 2½ times pre-war. All materials except timber, which accounts for about 25 per cent. of total building costs, must be imported, and the cost of imported materials is about 29 per cent. of total costs.

Social Security

In 1950, 9,400 persons were receiving old age pensions ; these amount to 18s. 9d. a month in Georgetown, and 12s. 6d. a month in the country. They are on a non-contributory basis, and are granted to British subjects over 65 years of age, who have been living in the Colony at least 10 years, and whose income does not exceed 18s. 9d. per month. Assistance is given to aged and infirm persons, and children, who are destitute, by the Social Assistance Department ; the minimum rate is 5s. per fortnight in Georgetown and 6s. 3d. per month in other areas. About 3,700 families were receiving assistance at the end of 1950. There are no health or unemployment insurance schemes. Rural welfare activities and youth clubs are promoted and given financial support by the Government ; a Social Welfare Division of the Local Government Department was established in 1948.

There is a Post Office Savings Bank, which has a guarantee from the general revenue of the colony, and eight co-operative societies for the encouragement of thrift. There are also various friendly societies which provide sickness and other benefits. They come under official supervision which is carried out by the Registrar of Friendly Societies.

Political Structure

British Guiana is a Crown Colony whose present Government is determined by Orders in Council made under an Act of Parliament of 1928. Executive power is vested in the Governor appointed by the Crown and advised by an Executive Council. The legislative body is the Legislative Council.

Since 1943 the Executive Council has consisted of the Governor (who presides), three official members and not exceeding five unofficial members appointed by the Governor from members of the Legislative Council ; while the Legislative Council has comprised the Governor (who presides and who has a casting vote only), three official members and 21 unofficial members of whom seven are nominated and 14 elected. The Legislative Council has a duration of five years but the Governor may prorogue or dissolve it before that time. There are five non-statutory advisory committees dealing with the work of the main Government Departments which are composed of four or five members of the Legislative Council together with the Head of the Department concerned. Where possible the Committees are under the chairmanship of an unofficial member of the Executive Council. There are certain property or income qualifications needed for membership of the Legislative Council and for voting.

The Governor holds reserve powers which enable him in the interests of public faith, public order or good government to veto bills passed by the Legislative Council and to declare as enacted Bills which have been introduced into the Legislative Council but which the Council has failed to pass.

A Constitutional Commission was in British Guiana from 15th December, 1950, to 13th February, 1951, and its report was published in October, 1951. Its main recommendations were that adult suffrage, without property or income qualifications or a literacy test, should be introduced for elections to the Legislative Council, but that elected members of the Legislative Council should be required to be literate in English. A further move towards responsible government should be made by the election of Ministers to the Executive Council from among the members of the Legislature : the Executive Council should consist of the Colonial—or Chief—Secretary, the Financial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and seven unofficial members of the Legislative Council, six of whom should be elected Ministers, with individual responsibility for their Departments. One of these Ministers should be Leader of the House.

There was a difference of opinion among members of the Commission as to whether the Legislature should have a single chamber, or whether there should also be a second chamber with powers to revise legislation and to suspend its passage for a year (its powers to be more limited in the case of money bills). If there were to be a single chamber, the Legislative Council would consist of 18 elected, six nominated and three *ex-officio* members (the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary) : if there were two chambers, the House of Assembly (the Lower House) would consist of 24 elected members and the same three *ex-officio* members, and the State Council (the Upper House) of six members nominated by the Governor, and three appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the majority and minority groups in the House of Assembly—two members by the majority and one member by the minority. In either case, therefore, the proportion of elected to nominated members—at present two to one—would be increased ; it would become three to one under the unicameral scheme and four to one under the bicameral scheme. The then Secretary of State for the Colonies expressed his general agreement with the main proposals made by the Commission and his preference for the establishment of a bicameral legislature.

The cities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam are each administered by a Mayor and Town Council on which a majority of the members are elected. They are responsible for their own drainage and sanitation, roads, etc., and raise a rate on property to defray expenses. Under the Local Government Ordinance rural areas of the Colony are divided into village, country or rural districts

Digitized by Google

under local authorities known as village councils, country and rural authorities. These are under the general administration of the Local Government Board which functions through eight District Commissioners. Two-thirds of the councillors on the 36 village councils are elected and one-third appointed by the Board. All the members of the 54 country authorities are appointed by the Board and the Board itself acts as the local authority for rural districts. The local authorities have powers of rating and borrowing and deal with drainage, roads, bridges, etc., in their areas. There is a Commissioner of the Interior who is responsible for the administration of the Mazaruni-Potaro, North-West and Rupununi districts, each of which has its own District Commissioner.

British Guiana takes part in all the regional organisations which exist for West Indian territories. In addition, special arrangements have been made between the Governments of British Guiana, French Guiana, and Surinam (Dutch Guiana) for the interchange of scientific and technical information, and for consultation among specialist officers of the three countries on any specific problem that may arise.

Principal Economic Legislation

Economic legislation in British Guiana is on similar lines to that in Britain, but generally speaking the more recent developments in British legislation have not been incorporated. For instance, company law in British Guiana dates from 1913, bankruptcy legislation from 1900, and so on. Many of the principal companies operating in British Guiana are in fact registered in Great Britain, and it is provided under British Guiana legislation that companies incorporated under British law can hold land and other immovable property in British Guiana as if they were incorporated there. Legislation on merchandise marks, patents and trade marks is also similar to that in Britain ; patents legislation has been subject to revision as recently as 1949.

Income tax law and customs and excise law are on similar lines to British legislation, but income tax rates, though they have been raised several times in recent years are not so high as in Britain. Taxation reliefs are given to companies undertaking developmental work, the prospects of which are uncertain, and to gold and diamond mining companies in respect of expenditure on exploration and development ; company taxation generally is at the rate of 40–45 per cent. on chargeable income. Estate duties are payable on properties at the death of the owner, on a graduated scale rising to a maximum of 60 per cent. on very large estates. The duty payable is reduced if an estate changes hands as a result of death more than once within a period of five years. Annual licences, for which fees must be paid, are required for banks, insurance companies and shops in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and also for various other forms of economic activity.

Trade Tariffs

The customs tariff contains two rates of duty for each article : a Preferential Tariff rate and a General Tariff rate. The Preferential Tariff rates are in most cases one-half those of the General Tariff rates and are applicable to goods which are grown, produced or manufactured within the British Commonwealth.

Specific rates are charged in general on food, drink, tobacco, fuel oils, lubricants, semi-manufactured iron and steel, cement, coal, etc. Except on alcoholic drinks and tobacco these duties are fairly low ; examples of preferential rates are—whisky $27.30 per case, cigarettes and cigars $4.55 per lb., flour $1.25 per 196 lb., butter $1.95 per 100 lb., fish, salted $0.97 per cwt., meat, pickled $0.65 per 200 lb., pulse $0.32 per 100 lb., constructional steel $0.19 per cwt., cement $0.32 per 400 lb. coal $0.32 per ton, diesel oil $0.65 per 100 gallons, lubricants $0.03 per lb.

Ad valorem duties are chargeable on the c.i.f. value of goods. The rate of duty payable on most articles coming under the *ad valorem* schedule is 16⅔ per cent. British Preferential Tariff, the chief exceptions being as follows : cotton and artificial silk piece goods 5 per cent., boots and shoes 2 per cent., apparel 15 per cent., paints 6 per cent., aluminium sheets 2 per cent., confectionery, jewellery, plated ware and motor cars 20 per cent., containers for local produce, fertilizers, printing and bookbinding paper 2 per cent.

Industrial machinery and tools of British Commonwealth origin are admitted free of duty, but if imported from non-Commonwealth sources are liable to duty at 5 per cent. or 7½ per cent. *ad valorem.*

The following articles are exempt from duty : seeds and plants for propagation, animals for breeding purposes, mosquito-proof netting and gauze, medicines for the treatment of certain diseases, aircraft, aviation spirit and lubricating oil for use in aircraft, and certain educational, scientific and cultural materials.

Apart from the Customs Tariff, there is a Bill of Entry Tax of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* levied on most imported goods, including those normally exempt from duty, irrespective of their country of origin.

Export duties are payable on rough precious stones at the rate of 15 cents a carat, on calcined bauxite at the rate of $1.00 per ton, on other bauxite at 45 cents per ton, and on all other goods the produce of the colony at the rate of 1½ per cent. *ad valorem* (f.o.b.), except in the case of raw gold, agricultural and forest products, and cut, or cut and polished, precious stones on which no duty is payable.

Imports are subject to control, but in the latter half of 1948 an Open General Licence was issued for all imports from the United Kingdom and the other colonies, except for a few commodities still in short supply. Otherwise the policy is to reduce imports from hard currency sources by restricting them to commodities not obtainable from soft-currency areas and essential for maintaining a reasonable standard of consumption or for industrial development, particularly in dollar-earning or dollar-saving industries. As far as possible, licences are issued freely for imports from the independent sterling territories of the Commonwealth, and from other countries according to the degree of softness of their currencies in relation to sterling.

An Open General Licence was issued in 1950 in regard to the export of goods produced or manufactured in British Guiana and the sterling area, except for certain specified commodities. The export of goods from other sources is still subject to control.

Labour

At the Census of 1946, the total number of wage and salary earners was 94,392—67,445 men and 26,947 women. Their racial division was as follows :—

NUMBERS IN EMPLOYMENT

	Total	*Men*	*Women*
African	40,743	28,635	12,108
East Indian	39,279	28,175	11,104
Mixed, Coloured, etc. ..	8,473	6,087	2,386
Portuguese	2,264	1,745	519
Amerindian	1,513	1,290	223
Other European	970	827	143
Chinese	850	686	164

Digitized by Google

The numbers in the principal industrial groups are shown below :—

	Total	*Men*	*Women*
Agriculture	37,511	25,725	11,786
Sugar planting	33,593	22,847	11,106
Rice growing	1,062	761	301
Services	21,339	9,825	11,514
Domestic service	7,387	879	6,508
Public service	5,894	5,383	511
Professional service	4,508	2,350	2,158
Personal service	2,418	686	1,732
Manufacture and repair	13,621	11,676	1,945
Sugar milling	3,692	3,455	237
Other food and drink	1,703	1,543	160
Metals, machinery, vehicles	2,065	2,058	7
Textiles and apparel	1,629	654	925
Saw-milling	1,574	1,550	24
All other manufactures	2,958	2,416	542
Trade and finance	5,657	4,453	1,204
Retail trade	3,216	2,405	811
Wholesale trade	1,958	1,665	293
Transport and communication	5,224	4,991	233
Water transport	3,526	3,442	84
Construction	5,177	5,006	171
Building	2,402	2,396	6
Road construction	1,507	1,377	130
Forestry	2,846	2,820	26
Quarrying and mining	2,148	2,120	28
Bauxite mining	1,058	1,034	24

Statistics are not available as to the number of persons of each race employed in the various occupations, but generally speaking it can be said that the field workers on the sugar plantations, and other manual workers, are East Indians, Africans, or of mixed race. Persons of all race groups are found in commercial and professional occupations, and in the Civil Service.

Legislation giving powers for the establishment of employment exchanges was passed in 1944, and exchanges have now been set up in the two main centres of population, Georgetown and New Amsterdam ; other areas of the Colony are served by post. Both male and female workers are dealt with by the exchanges, and in 1950 a juvenile employment section, for both boys and girls, was added to the Employment Exchange service.

The Colony legislation on trade unions, which is generally on the lines of British legislation, requires that they shall be registered and that their accounts shall be audited by an auditor appointed with the approval of the Governor. Union property must be vested in trustees, who may not be officers of the union. Particulars of the rules of the union must be sent to the Registrar, who will register the union when he is satisfied that its objects are legal. There is no restriction on the use of union funds for political purposes. Peaceful picketing is allowed by not more than three persons at one time, but they must not engage in intimidation or obstruction. Under the Trades Disputes (Essential Services) Ordinance, 1942, strikes and lock-outs are prohibited unless the dispute from which they arise has been reported to the Governor and he has not within a month appointed an Advisory Committee to enquire into it. This Ordinance has been made applicable to employees in certain public services.

At the end of 1950 there were 35 workers' organisations registered as trade unions, with a membership of approximately 15,250 ; 13 of these unions were affiliated to the British Guiana T.U.C., which was established in 1941. The following table gives particulars of the membership of the various unions at the end of 1950 :—

TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP

Union	*Year registered*	*Approximate membership*
B.G. Seamen's Union (T.U.C.)	1938	12
Government Employees' Union	1938	116
B.G. and W.I. Sugar Boilers' Union (T.U.C.)	1944	72
B.G. Dental Assistants and Mechanics' Association (T.U.C.)	1945	8
B.G. Workers' League (T.U.C.)	1931	251
Transport Workers' Union of B.G.	1938	1,685
B.G. Post Office Workers' Union	1938	193
B.G. Congress of General Workers (T.U.C.)	1938	222
Moulders and Mechanics Union (T.U.C.)	1939	250
Municipal Labour Trades Union	1946	86
Sugar Estates Clerks' Association	1946	72
B.G. Nurses' Union	1947	129
B.G. Headmen's Union (T.U.C.)	1945	122
B.G. Teachers' Association	1946	530
Man-Power Citizens' Association (T.U.C.)	1947	5,000
B.G. Labour Union (T.U.C.)	1922	330
Subordinate Medical Employees Union	1938	415
Cosmopolitan Workers' Union (T.U.C.)	1941	Membership unknown
Sawmill Workers' Union (T.U.C.)	1944	Membership unknown
B.G. and W.I. Federated Seamen's Union (T.U.C.)	1947	83
B.G. Waterfront Workers' Union	1949	23
Guiana Industrial Workers' Union	1948	3,000
Colonial Workers' Union	1948	47
B.G. Coopers' Union	1948	74
Guianese Workers' Federation (T.U.C.)	1948	412
B.G. Civil Service Association	1948	600
Shipwrights' Association of British Guiana	1949	35
Public Works, Pure Water Supply Scheme and Sea Defences Workers' Union	1949	477
British Guiana Land Surveyors' Association	1949	5
Linotype Operators' Association	1949	Membership unknown
Medical Service Employees' Union	1949	10
Public Hospital Workers' Union	1949	Membership unknown
Clerical Workers' Union	1950	Membership unknown
Factory Workers' and Machine Operators' Union	1950	Membership unknown
British Guiana Mine Workers' Union	1950	1,000

The Man-Power Citizens' Association is the principal organisation of the workers on the sugar estates.

Legislation on workmen's compensation, which was introduced in 1934 and amended in 1947, is based on that of the United Kingdom. It covers all employees—whether clerical or manual—who are under a contract of service or apprenticeship (including seamen), whether the contract is written on not, but it excludes persons whose remuneration is over $1,200 a year, casual workers, outworkers, domestic servants, teachers and certain other

Digitized by Google

categories of employees ; employers are, of course, not liable when the accident is due to serious and wilful misconduct on the part of the employee. The maximum sum payable on the death of a workman is $1,200 or 30 months' wages (reckoned at a maximum of $60 per month), whichever is less, and for total incapacity $1,680 or 42 months' wages, whichever is less; partial incapacity is compensated at a reduced rate. Employers in the building trades, mining, forestry, industry generally, and dangerous trades (but not in agriculture) are required to insure against their liability to pay compensation. Employers are liable for the expenses of conveying injured employees to hospital and for reasonable expenses in connection with their treatment and stay there.

Under the Labour Ordinance of 1942 a Labour Department was set up, headed by a Commissioner of Labour. Whenever a difference between an employer and employee, or between different classes of employees, exists or is apprehended, the Commissioner has powers (a) to enquire into its causes and circumstances, (b) to take steps to bring about a settlement, and (c) with the consent of the parties to refer the matter for settlement by arbitration by one or more persons appointed by the Governor. The arbitrator must enquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute, endeavour to bring about a settlement, and make a report to the Commissioner. The Governor can refer any matters concerning the dispute to an Advisory Committee appointed by him for the purpose ; this Committee is to make a report and recommendations. The Governor can also appoint an Advisory Committee to make recommendations regarding minimum rates of wages, and can make orders regarding such wages for timework, piecework, and overtime. These orders must be approved by the Legislative Council. The Governor, acting in Council, can make regulations regarding daily or weekly hours of work, and mealtimes, for employees (other than shop assistants). These powers have been sparingly used, and an order laying down the terms of employment for night watchmen is the only one in force.

Machinery for joint consultation has been established on the sugar estates, with provision for the election of workers' representatives by secret ballot, while in the bauxite industry a joint production and advisory committee has been formed, to exchange views between the management and employees regarding increased production and efficiency. In Georgetown, a scheme for the decasualisation of port labour has been in operation since 1945, and has brought about a considerable reduction in the amount of casual employment. There are regular meetings between shipping agents and trade union representatives for discussion and settlement of matters relating to wages and working conditions on the waterfront.

Under the Factories Ordinance of 1947 all factories are to be registered with the Commissioner of Labour, together with the nature of the process on which they are engaged, their number of employees, etc. All registered factories are to be inspected ; officials of the Labour Department may act as inspectors. The Governor-in-Council can make regulations regarding employment in dangerous processes, safety measures, ventilation, sanitation, medical supervision, and the employment of women and young persons. These provisions of the Ordinance came into force in 1949, together with an amending Ordinance extending its operation to engineering and ship repairing ; it is provided that ships can be inspected. Under other sections of the Ordinance, not yet in force, details are to be given regarding dangerous equipment, the use of which can be prohibited by the Commissioner of Labour ; dangerous machinery must be sufficiently guarded. Industrial diseases are to be notified and investigated. The Governor is given powers to make regulations regarding hours of work, weekly breaks, night shifts, overtime, and holiday rates of pay.

Under the Shops Ordinance of 1944 assistants are not to work more than 47 hours a week (or 42 hours if they work at other than the usual hours of opening) and must have a midday break of one hour and a weekly half holiday. The Licensed Premises Ordinance of 1944 restricts employees' hours to 46 per week. An Education Ordinance of 1947 prohibits the employment of children under 14. The Bakery (Hours of Work) Ordinance of 1946 prohibits Sunday work, night baking (except on Fridays) and hours exceeding 60 per week, though the Governor-in-Council is empowered to allow exceptions for public holidays and other special circumstances, provided that not more than 72 hours are worked in a week. Night work, work for more than eight hours daily and work on public holidays must be paid for at additional rates.

Land Tenure

The Governor can make absolute or provisional grants of small areas of Crown lands, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, grant leases of Crown lands or forests, or authorise the granting of licences for occupation of Crown lands for agriculture, cattle-grazing, wood-cutting, etc. The Governor can also make grants of Crown lands to the Colony. The grant or sale of Crown lands does not confer a right to minerals.

If there is more than one application for an area of Crown land or forest, an auction is held, but the highest bidder has only a preferential claim to title, not a right. The Governor can determine rents. Permission may be granted for construction and maintenance of roads on Crown lands for mining, wood-cutting, etc., and the Governor also has authority to construct and maintain such roads, and to charge tolls for the passage of cattle through Crown savannahs.

Private lands which have been abandoned for eight years, and the owner of which cannot be found, may be taken possession of by the Crown.

The Lands and Mines Department has charge of all Crown lands, forests, rivers, and creeks (other than forest reserves). The Governor can declare any part of Crown lands to be a forest reserve ; in forest reserves rights can only be acquired under grants or leases given by the Governor. The Governor can make regulations for the protection of trees, the regulation of transport, etc. The management of Crown forests is carried out by the Forest Department.

Since 1917 the British Guiana law of property and landlord and tenant has been the same as the current British law (except in regard to a few points such as primogeniture). The title to immovable property may be acquired by sole and undisputed possession for 30 years, if the fact of this possession is established to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court.

In the past the Governor has had powers to declare unoccupied Crown land in the interior of the Colony to be a reservation for the Amerindian population, and altogether fourteen reservations have been established, with a total area of approximately 5,650 square miles, of which 4,500 square miles are accounted for by the Mazaruni Reservation, in the mountainous interior of the country. Under the Amerindian Ordinance which was passed in 1951, the number of reservations will be gradually reduced, as it has been decided as a matter of policy that the Amerindians are to be segregated only until they have reached a standard of civilisation sufficient to enable them to take their place in the general life of the Colony. It is intended ultimately to have three large Amerindian districts, and as a beginning the existing reservations are to be converted into Amerindian areas. As has been the case previously, no person other than an Amerindian or an authorised official will be allowed to enter a reserved area without permission, but whereas hitherto the Amerindians have held no title or vested interest in the land they have occupied, now before any area is abandoned, and in the permanent reservations, District, Area, and Village Councils will be set up and the

Digitized by Google

land converted into communal lands. There will be no compulsion on Amerindians to move into the three districts finally remaining, and those who do not will have their lands safeguarded and will retain their communal rights and privileges. The Commissioner of the Interior is the official responsible for the protection, care and supervision of the Amerindian population. The Interior contains three Administrative Districts—the Mazaruni-Potaro, Rupununi and North-West Districts.

The Governor has power to grant general concessions authorising the occupation of any part of Crown lands and mining and taking of minerals, oil, etc. Temporary exploration permits, without concession or lease, may also be granted, and exclusive rights to occupy and explore if the Governor holds this to be expedient. Alternatively, licences to mine on unoccupied Crown lands, which can be revoked if the area is not being efficiently worked, can be granted by the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, with the approval of the Governor. Concessions, licences etc., may be granted to more than one person.

An absolute grant of Crown lands, together with a concession, may be made with the approval of the Secretary of State. A concession may be cancelled if there is a breach of the terms on which it was granted.

Royalties, or other payments in lieu of them, are to be paid on minerals, as prescribed by the terms of the concession or licence.

Private landowners who were in occupation of lands before 1903 have rights to search for and retain all metals and minerals, other than gold, silver and precious stones, but must obtain a licence in order to search and mine for these latter. Grants of Crown land made after 1903 do not give any rights to any metals or minerals, which remain the property of the Crown.

Immigration

All persons (both British subjects and aliens) entering the Colony for temporary residence, e.g., holidays or business visits, must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document, except citizens of Canada or the United States of America, who do not require passports if they satisfy the Immigration Officer that they are in fact citizens of these countries, that they do not intend to remain in the Colony more than three months, and that they are in possession of return tickets. Visas are required by all aliens except United States citizens whose stay in the Colony is not to exceed six months, Netherlands subjects who enter the Colony from Dutch Guiana, or citizens of countries participating in the visa abolition agreement. Both British subjects and aliens must be in possession of return tickets to their country of origin, or through tickets to their next destination if they are in transit, and if they are not in possession of return or through tickets they may be required to deposit a sum of money with the Immigration Authorities as a guarantee against their compulsory repatriation.

All persons entering the Colony for permanent residence must be in possession of a valid passport or travel document, and must deposit a sum of money with the Immigration Authorities as a guarantee against their repatriation ; they must also satisfy the Immigration Authorities that they are in possession of sufficient means to support themselves in the Colony for an indefinite period. (A contract or agreement for employment with a well-known local firm or satisfactory proof of financial means to set up in business are normally required as proof of means of support.) Aliens, in addition, require visas (except in the case of citizens of countries participating in the visa abolition agreement), and must have an entry permit from the Chief Immigration Officer.

The Governor has absolute powers under the Immigration Ordinance to prohibit the entry of any alien into the Colony.

Transport and Communications

In 1951 the Colony had 49 post offices, and nine travelling post offices ; there were also 61 postal agencies, nine of which are in the interior, and eight travelling postal agencies. Airmail services are operated to the interior. The coastal districts have telegraph and telephone services ; in 1951 there were approximately 3,385 telephones. There is also a telephone service on the railway which runs along the coast.

A central radio station maintains a daily regular telegraph service with six post office stations in the interior, and there are also 19 Government and 39 privately owned radio-telephone stations operated in country districts and the interior. There is an overseas radio-telephone service to other parts of the West Indies, Britain, the United States of America, Canada, and several European countries. A broadcasting station is operated by private enterprise under licence.

The main part of the road system is on the coast, where there are approximately 260 miles of main and 56 miles of branch roads. There is a trunk road running parallel with the coast and numerous short roads on river banks which join it. These roads can be used by motor traffic, though their surface—away from the towns—is not of a modern type ; it consists of " burnt earth " (baked clods of suitable soil) and it tends to become soft in the wet season. In the interior there are 210 miles of road usable by motors, most of which is from Bartica to the Potaro River, with a branch to Issano on the Mazaruni River. The surface of this road is sand, and is generally rough. There are also about 400 miles of trails which are regularly maintained by Government, including a cattle trail about 200 miles long with a series of bridges, from the Berbice River to the Rupununi savannahs ; these trails can be used by motor transport.

There are bus services on all the main roads, run by private operators. The Government Transport and Harbours Department run lorry services on the Bartica–Potaro–Issano roads.

Two single-track railways are operated by the Transport and Harbours Department, from Georgetown to Rosignol on the Berbice River, opposite New Amsterdam, 60½ miles in length, 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge, and from Vreed-en-Hoop, on the Demerara River opposite Georgetown, to Parika on the Essequibo Estuary, 18½ miles in length, 3 ft. 6 in. gauge. The Demerara Bauxite Company has a line 46 miles long, from Mackenzie on the Demerara River to the bauxite mines and Ituni, and there is a private line from Wismar, opposite Mackenzie on the Demerara River, to Rockstone on the Essequibo, 18½ miles in length, metre gauge, which is not in regular use. There is also a logging railway six miles long running from Manaka on the lower Essequibo.

Much use is made of water transport within the Colony ; on the sugar estates the canals provide the principal means for the movement of produce and supplies to the cane-fields, and the rivers are used for transport to the interior, as far up as they are navigable. On the Demerara River it is possible for ocean-going ships to load timber and bauxite as far up as Mackenzie, though on account of the bar at its mouth they cannot take full cargoes. On the Essequibo River there are two bars—one at its entrance and the other below Bartica—so that it can only be used by vessels of shallow draught.

The Government Transport and Harbours Department runs regular ferry services across the Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice Rivers and river services from New Amsterdam to Paradise, 105½ miles up the Berbice River, and from Parika to Bartica and Adventure on the Essequibo River. Sea services are run from Georgetown to the Pomeroon and Moruka Rivers, to Morawhanna and Mabarunna in the North-West district, and from New Amsterdam to Ikuwuru in the Canje Creek area. Messrs. Sprostons Limited run a service up the Demerara River, from Georgetown to Wismar and Mackenzie. Privately operated launch services on the Moruka and Pomeroon Rivers and to the islands in the Essequibo River receive a subsidy, and there are other privately-run launch services on the Mahaica, Mahaicony and Abary Rivers.

Digitized by Google

The steamers of several companies, operating to various parts of the world, call at Georgetown, among them Bookers Line, the Harrison Line, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, Canadian National Steamships, the Alcoa Line, and Dutch Government steamers from Surinam. Although New Amsterdam, Morawhanna, and Springlands on the Courantyne River are also ports of entry, Georgetown is the only regular port for external traffic. It lies at the mouth of the Demerara River where there is a bar which can be crossed only at high tide by ocean going vessels, up to a maximum of 20 feet. There are eight principal wharves, which are privately-owned, and are situated on the river frontage. They vary in length from 210 to 575 feet, and in depth from 10 to 15 feet ; ships can lie on the soft mud bottom. There is a dry dock with a length of 212 feet and a breadth of 46 feet.

An agreement has been made with British Guiana Airways Limited, a private company developed by Mr. A. J. Williams, an American citizen, by which the company has exclusive rights for internal air services, and receives a Government subsidy ; the company is subject to Government control, and has a Government-appointed Chairman and Secretary. In 1951 it operated seven planes, some of them amphibian. Under the agreement the Government has the right to decide what services shall be operated by the company. Regular air services are run to accessible places in the interior of the Colony, and landing strips have been constructed at various sites, some in the Rupununi and the North-West District ; there is an airfield with a 5,000 feet runway at Mackenzie. During the war a United States Air Force base was established at Atkinson Field, on the Demerara River about 25 miles from Georgetown ; this is no longer in use by the United States Air Force, and is the Colony's international airport.

External air services are run by British West Indian Airways Limited to Trinidad and Barbados, by Pan-American Airways by planes operating between North and South America, and by K.L.M. to the Dutch West Indies. The right to carry passengers, freight and mail between points in British territory is reserved to British aircraft. British Guiana Airways, British West Indian Airways and Pan-American Airways operate their own radio stations at Atkinson Field for communication with their own aircraft.

The Commissioner of Police is the licensing authority for public service vehicles—buses, lorries and taxis. In deciding whether licences are to be granted, primary regard is to be had to the needs of the public. Routes, freight rates and bus fares may be prescribed, and exclusive transportation licences may be granted. Only four licences are allowed to be issued for the transportation of goods between Georgetown and Rosignol, and only three licences for goods transportation between Vreed-en-Hoop and Parika. In 1943 3,190 licences for motor vehicles were issued, of which 1,340 were for commercial vehicles (including buses).

The improvement of transport facilities is regarded as essential to the further development of the Colony, and particularly for the development of the interior. Under the 10-year Development Plan the construction of first-class modern roads, 18 feet wide, has been recommended from Georgetown to Atkinson Field airport (up the Demerara River) and from New Amsterdam along the Courantyne coast to Crabwood Creek—a district in which much agricultural development is now taking place. Work on this latter road has now begun. At a later stage a steady programme of building of 5 to 10 miles of first-class road is envisaged.

In both 1949 and 1950 all the Government-operated transport services were run at a loss, with the exception of a launch service on the Cuyuni River, which showed a small surplus. Particulars of the revenue and net deficiency for each form of transport are given in the following table :

TRANSPORT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

	Revenue		*Operating Deficiency*	
	1949	1950	1949	1950
	$	$	$	$
Railways	830,465	814,333	550,615	598,898
Steamers	480,598	507,876	446,018	573,668
Road transport (Bartica–Potaro lorry service)	77,034	92,287	39,758	26,815
Cuyuni River service	11,189	10,244	2,174 (surplus)	1,382 (surplus)
Total	$1,399,916	1,424,740	1,034,217	1,197,999

The harbours, on the other hand, showed a surplus of $380,201 in 1949 and $360,949 in 1950, so that the net deficiency of the Transport and Harbours Department as a whole was reduced to $654,016 in 1949 and $737,050 in 1950.

At Georgetown and New Amsterdam the following port charges are payable :—

Light dues : 4 cents per ton.

Tonnage dues : 5 cents per ton for sailing vessels under 100 tons, 25 cents per ton for sailing vessels from 100 to 500 tons, and for sailing vessels over 500 tons and all steam vessels, 25 cents per ton on cargo or registered tonnage, whichever is less.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The soils of British Guiana can be divided into two main types, those found in the coastal regions and in the interior respectively. The principal coastal soil is a heavy sodium magnesium seaborne clay ; is of considerable depth and fairly good nutrient quality, but is very susceptible to drought, as a result of shrinkage and packing of the surface soil on drying, which hinders absorption of rain, and also because its high content of salts induces physiological drought. It is greatly benefited by the periodic " flood fallowing " which is carried out in connection with sugar cane cultivation. This washes out injurious salts and increases its " available " iron content. The characteristics of this heavy coastal soil, and the fact that it is often waterlogged, make it suitable for only a few crops, among them especially the Colony's two main crops, sugar cane and rice, which benefit by the ample supplies of irrigation water available.

Interspersed with the heavy coastal soil are belts of light soil known as sand reefs, which, though not so nutrient as the heavy clay, are suitable for coconuts and, if irrigated and manured, for market gardening. Between the coastal and interior soils there are belts of peaty soil overlaying heavy clay, which are known as pegasse ; if it is not too deep, drained and irrigated pegasse is reasonably fertile.

Digitized by Google

The soil of the interior for the most part consists of white or brown infertile sand, though there are some areas of red lateritic ironstone soils which are reasonably fertile. It is mainly covered by dense and lofty forest, but when this is cleared the low fertility of the soil is soon exhausted, and it is little utilised except for shifting cultivation by Amerindians; the areas of ironstone soils will support permanent crops such as citrus and cocoa for relatively long periods. The soil of the savannahs is also generally infertile, and vegetation is poor, but there are limited areas of fertile loam in the valleys and foothills of the mountain ranges and along the lower courses of the rivers, on which some food crops are grown.

Sugar-cane cultivation takes place on large plantations, varying from 1,000 to 13,000 acres, with an average size of 7,000 acres. In 1834, when slavery was ended, there were as many as 400 sugar estates, but since that date there have been numerous amalgamations, as well as the abandonment of considerable areas of land, and there are now only 21 plantations. The area actually devoted to sugar growing is 60,000–65,000 acres, the remainder of the estates consisting of land used for buildings, grazing, other crops and fallowing. Except for one privately-owned plantation, the sugar estates are owned by a number of companies; the largest of these—Booker Bros., McConnell and Co—has a controlling interest in the majority, while Sandbach, Parker and Co. operates two factories and S. Davson and Co. one factory. All are registered in London. Sugar cane land is flooded and allowed to lie fallow under water for a period of six months every four years; the fields are then drained and ploughed. Sugar cane leaves are burnt before reaping, in order to remove snakes and to save labour, and so do not add to humus, but this is probably adequate in any case. Extensive use is made of artificial fertilisers, especially sulphate of ammonia and to some extent lime, the latter being imported from Barbados. The fact that there are two wet and two dry seasons each year means that planting and reaping can be more continuous than where there is only one season. Cutting usually takes place about a year after planting, and canes are then allowed to grow again for a further year before being cut afresh.

Most labour operations—planting, liming, application of fertiliser, cutting—are done by hand, though oxen or tractors are used for ploughing. British Guiana has lagged behind other Caribbean sugar-producing territories in mechanisation, because of the special conditions brought about by the double wet season and the complex irrigation system. It is estimated that an estate of 6,500 acres has 245 miles of canals, and that for the whole of the sugar plantations the length of canals amounts to approximately 5,000 miles. These canals have to be kept free of weeds and their banks maintained. Work on the canals is also done by manual labour, though the Venn Commission, which made a comprehensive report on the British Guiana sugar industry in 1949*, recommended that mechanisation should be introduced both for canal cleaning and planting and other field operations, and it is understood that the sugar companies have plans to this end. Under the special conditions prevailing in British Guiana, however, mechanical reaping may not be practicable. The irrigation system is necessarily very costly, and largely because of it the profits on sugar growing in British Guiana tend to be lower than elsewhere in the Caribbean; according to the Venn Commission, in the years 1945–7 they were $8·11 per ton as compared with $15·43 per ton in Barbados. The Government maintains the sea walls, but not river embankments, and the companies bear the cost of pumping stations which are necessary for drainage into the sea, and often also for pumping irrigation water in from rivers.

The grinding of the sugar cane is done in factories owned by the estate companies and situated on the plantations. At the present time there are 15 factories, the annual sugar production capacities of which vary from 4,000 tons to 30,000 tons. The Venn Commission pointed out that a factory of 20,000 tons capacity is accepted as being the smallest thoroughly efficient unit, while a capacity of 30,000 tons—which corresponds to 13,000 acres of cultivated cane—is as large as the transport conditions on the estates will permit. The number of factories seems likely to diminish. The creation of larger estates thus makes possible the use of factories of more efficient size. In British Guiana the amount of cane required to produce one ton of sugar is about 10½ to 12 tons, as compared with 7 to 9 tons in other West Indian areas; the production of sugar per reaped acre has been rising steadily in recent years, and is now about three tons. It has doubled since 1920, when a Sugar Experiment Station, run by the sugar producers in association with the Government, was set up. It is financed by a levy of 50 cents on each acre under cane on holdings of over 25 acres which are cultivated by more than one person.

The total production of sugar in 1950 was 195,651 long tons. Slightly more than one per cent. of this (about 2,090 tons) was the output of small farms run by peasant proprietors, most of whom live in villages on the Demerara east coast. They grow other crops also; their sugar plots are generally about one acre or rather more in extent. There are about 800 of these small cane growers. Their cane is ground at the estate factories, at a cost usually of one-third of what they would receive in accordance with the market price of sugar. In 1944 a Cane Farming Officer, responsible to the Director of Agriculture, was appointed, whose task it is to assist small cane farmers and to encourage them to co-operate—e.g., in bringing their plots together so as to make flood-fallowing possible. Their purchases of fertilisers and similar requisites are at present made through the estates, on which they often work in their spare time as casual labourers. The Venn Commission recommended that these purchases should also be made co-operatively.

The weekly average of employment on the sugar estates, in the fields or factories, is about 27,000 persons, including 6,000 women, and there are also about 1,500 persons in supervisory positions. The great majority of field workers are East Indians, and most of the factory workers (numbering about 6,000) are Africans.

Rice is the Colony's next most important crop, and the area devoted to rice growing is actually larger than that used for sugar cane; in 1950, 93,637 acres were cultivated, and 95,788 acres reaped (a certain proportion of the land yields a second crop in the spring). The main crop is planted at the beginning of the long wet season, in April–May, and is reaped in October. Where there is a second crop, it is planted in November.

The rice crop is also grown on the heavy clay soils of the coastal belt, which are extremely suitable for it. In some areas abandoned sugar estates are used; sometimes their irrigation facilities are maintained, but generally waterways are allowed to become derelict on rice estates, as the crop cannot bear the cost of their upkeep. The former sugar estates have been divided into properties of from 200 to 2,000 acres, and cultivation is mainly by small peasant farmers who lease crop areas of 2–3 acres from the landowners; there are as well some newer family settlement schemes of 10–12 acres on which there is also cattle grazing and the growing of ground provisions. In the Mahaicony area, a rice development scheme was started by the Government in 1942, covering an area of 11,000 acres, on 4,500 acres of which a Government-operated experiment in large scale mechanical cultivation is being carried out. Mechanical equipment is also hired to nearby cultivators. On this estate there is a large central Government-operated mill for grinding padi into rice. Otherwise the rice mills in the Colony are small and not particularly efficient; in 1948 there were 183 of them in operation, very often owned by the proprietor of the land worked by the peasants.

Altogether rice production is the chief source of livelihood for 13,000–15,000 workers, most of whom are East Indians, who generally also keep cattle and have seasonal

* Report of a Commission of Enquiry into the Sugar Industry of British Guiana, 1949. (H.M.S.O. Col. No. 249. 4s. 0d.)

Digitized by Google

employment on the sugar estates. Except in the Mahaicony area, harvesting and other operations are carried out by hand, although the use of machines is rapidly extending ; the quality of the padi is good, and yields are generally high, unless adversely affected by drought. The yield of rice in British Guiana varies between 1,300 and 1,500 lb. per acre, as compared with about 1,000 lb. per acre in Malaya. Under an Ordinance of 1945 the tenants of rice farms have a high degree of security, and can only be given notice if they have not paid rent or fulfilled other conditions of tenancy, including good husbandry. Rents are controlled and must not generally be more than 40 per cent. above the 1939 level.

About 33,000 acres are devoted to coconut growing, and the crop amounts to about 50 million nuts annually ; yield is 1,500–1,600 coconuts per acre. There are two mills for the production of coconut oil and other products. Coconut growing is generally carried on by cultivators who are also engaged in other lines of production ; the same applies to coffee growing, and fruit and vegetable production. Coffee production amounts to about 250 tons annually, and the area cultivated to 2,900 acres. The cultivation of ground provisions occupies about 20,000 acres, and fruit growing 5,300 acres ; there is a fair supply of citrus fruits.

Excluding the sugar estates, the average size of holdings is not large ; according to the 1946 census, in the course of which particulars were obtained from the great majority of farmers, it was 2·48 acres. The following table shows the distribution of holdings of various sizes :—

Under 1 acre	..	6,707
1–2 acres	..	5,625
2–5 acres	..	9,578
5–10 acres	..	4,725
10–20 acres	..	1,797
20–50 acres	..	474
50–100 acres	..	71
100–200 acres	..	41
200–500 acres	..	15
500–1,000 acres	..	4
Total	..	29,062

Approximately 98 per cent. of holdings are therefore under 20 acres, and 92 per cent. are under 10 acres. The total area of cultivated land, including the sugar estates, is about 212,000 acres, only approximately 0·4 per cent. of the total area of the Colony.

According to the agricultural census held in 1948 the animal population of the Colony was as follows :—

Cattle	..	186,262
Sheep	..	44,192
Pigs ..	..	28,160
Goats	..	14,588
Asses..	..	8,686
Horses	..	2,518
Mules	..	1,634
Rabbits	..	348
Buffaloes	..	101
Fowls	..	421,971
Ducks	..	60,257
Turkeys	..	6,157

Cattle are kept on the coastal belt both by the sugar plantations and by peasant farmers ; there are also a few privately-owned coastal ranches. Dairy herds are maintained by the sugar estates to provide milk for the estate hospitals and estate staff ; these herds contain some Holstein-Friesian cows, but most of the estate cattle are of the Creole breed mixed with Holstein-Friesian strains. The cattle belonging to the peasants, as usual in the West Indies, are of the Creole breed ; there are also some Zebu cattle from India and the Creole animals also sometimes have a Hereford strain. Both the sugar estates and peasant rice farmers make use of oxen, generally of the Creole type, for ploughing.

On the estates cattle live under fairly good conditions and are well cared for, but this is not the case with the peasants' cattle, which are usually of a poor type for either milk or beef production, and in most cases are left to fend for themselves on poor overstocked communal pastures which are under water for a great deal of the time. Fodder is not provided, and during the wet season the animals have to manage on what herbage they can discover on pieces of ground which are above flood level ; they lead a semi-aquatic life, and much of their time is spent standing in water, several feet in depth, which surrounds the villages in the rice-growing areas for considerable parts of the year.

On the intermediate savannahs, which cover an area of about 1¼ million acres, it has not in the past proved possible to keep cattle with success, because of mineral deficiencies in the soil, but recent work at an experimental station in this area has shown that cattle can be kept if a complete mineral supplement is provided. On the hinterland savannahs, which extend to four million acres, there are a number of ranches, the largest of which is operated by the Rupununi Development Company, with 30,000–35,000 head of cattle. Here also the soil is deficient in certain minerals, chiefly calcium and phosphorus, and pasture is not good enough for cattle to be kept except under open range conditions, but it is not necessary to provide a mineral supplement. About one-quarter of the beef consumed in Georgetown and on the coastal belt is provided from these ranches, which at present have an annual output of about 1½ million pounds of meat, but the supply has been seasonal, as the 300-mile trail, over which the cattle are driven to the coastland, can only be used during the dry season : recently, however air transport of beef has been developed. A Government abattoir is in operation in the Rupununi.

No foot and mouth disease exists in the coastal belt, though there has been some on the savannahs, probably brought from Brazil. Tuberculosis and contagious abortion occur, but are not prevalent. Diseases resulting from parasites and from nutritional deficiencies occur both on the coastlands and the savannahs.

The Government maintains stud centres at which Holstein-Friesian bulls are available but it has not been possible to get rid of scrub bulls and general improvement in the quality of cattle has been slight. The Government also maintains a Veterinary Service, but it is on rather a small scale, and there is a Livestock Farm for demonstration and experimental work.

There are experimental stations on the intermediate and hinterland savannahs, where pasture and soil research are being tried out.

Sheep, pigs and goats are also kept by peasants, and like the cattle are generally left to fend for themselves. Both they and the peasant-owned poultry are of poor quality. Horses are kept mainly for riding ; about 1,500 of them are used on the ranches of the interior. They are small, but of a useful type. The mules used for estate work are almost all imported from the southern states of the United States of America, and are generally of a good type and fairly well cared for, but donkeys owned by the peasants are generally in bad condition and receive harsh treatment. Pigs are fed largely on rice and coconut by-products.

There are many thousands of acres of land both on the coast and behind the estates which could be used for stock raising and the growing of rice and other crops if the work necessary to prevent flooding and provide drainage were carried out, but this work involves heavy expenditure and the Colony's resources only permit of its being done by stages. Soil erosion is not a problem on the coastlands, though overstocking has resulted in grass coverage being denuded in many areas, but the soils of the savannahs are likely to show erosion effects and mineral deficiencies if all large amounts of stock are kept on them, unless some means is found of restoring the minerals which are thereby consumed. While diseases exist, they are not so serious or widespread as to set a limit to the keeping of

Digitized by Google

livestock. The chief limiting factors to the extension of all kinds of agriculture are at present the lack of water control on the remaining usable areas of the coastal belt, and the low standards of agricultural knowledge and practice of the colony's peasant farmers.

Local Food Products

Estimates of total food consumption over the period 1939–45 suggest that the daily average amount available per head was 2,600 calories—which by tropical standards may be regarded as fairly adequate—but that qualitatively there were serious deficiencies of calcium, fats, iron, protein and vitamins A and B. Cereals, sugar, starchy roots and other vegetables together accounted for 91 per cent. of the total calorific value of consumption, and animal foods for only nine per cent. There may have been some improvements in consumption in recent years, but it is likely that the general position has not substantially changed.

Production of the export crops of sugar and rice is of course sufficient to meet the colony's own needs, and the production of cereals as a whole, ground provisions, and fruit is almost sufficient, at the prevailing levels of consumption. During the period 1939–45 the production of meat was 58 per cent., of fish 41 per cent., and of milk 77 per cent. of requirements, and these are commodities the average consumption of which is extremely low. It is estimated that the production of coconuts and coffee is in each case about half local consumption. Substantial increases in the output of all these commodities have been recommended in the Ten Year Development Plan; increased meat production is to be secured by enlarging the stocks of cattle, pigs and poultry.

Surveys have shown that nutritional deficiencies are widespread. This results, among other things, in bad dental conditions among school children. It is estimated that about 30 per cent. of the population of Georgetown cannot afford to purchase the commodities necessary for a healthy diet. In particular there is a shortage of milk; the quantity received daily in Georgetown varies from 1,300 to 2,600 gallons, while 3,200 gallons are required for a consumption of 2½ pints per person per week. At the present time a large amount of imported condensed milk is used. There is also a shortage of milk in country districts. The diets of the different races vary; that of the East Indians tends to be more unbalanced than the African diet.

A Nutrition Committee was appointed in 1943, and information work is carried out by the authorities to improve diets and the preparation of food. School meals are provided for necessitous children.

Cash Crops

The Colony's principal cash crop is sugar. It is produced mainly for export to Canada and the United Kingdom; in 1948 production was 173,000 tons and exports 137,000 tons, or 78 per cent. of the amount produced, and in the same year sugar accounted for 55 per cent. of the total value of exports; in 1949 production and exports were practically the same at approximately 174,000 tons each, and in 1950 production was 195,650 tons and exports 173,000 tons. Two important by-products are produced from sugar cane during the manufacturing process—bagasse and molasses. Bagasse is a fibrous residue, consisting mainly of cellulose, and amounts by weight to about 25 per cent. of the sugar cane, or approximately 500,000 tons. At present it is mainly burnt in the factories as fuel, but there is some surplus, which does not appear to be put to any special use in British Guiana, though in other Colonies bagasse has been made into fibre boarding and other similar products.

About 50 gallons of molasses are produced for each ton of cane sugar. Molasses is either exported or manufactured into rum; there are distilleries for rum manufacture at nine out of the Colony's 16 sugar factories. The process of distillation involves the adding of water and sulphuric acid to the molasses. The greater part of the rum produced is exported; in 1950 rum exports were 2,656,000 gallons, together with approximately 5,870,883 gallons of molasses. The sugar and other products of the factories are sent by water to Georgetown, where they are loaded in vessels for export.

Prices and output of sugar in recent years have been as follows :—

SUGAR OUTPUT AND PRICES

	Price per ton (f.o.b. Trinidad) $	*(96° proof refined sugar) (c.i.f.)* $	*Output (including sugar from farmers' canes)* tons	*Rum* gallons
1937	43·60		186,875	1,888,331
1938	37·60		196,502	1,708,464
1939	46·10		189,245	1,422,571
1940	49·20	54·00	167,645	2,084,315
1941		60·60	188,009	2,505,314
1942		66·00	191,767	2,470,803
1943		68·40	166,406	2,411,817
1944		73·20	138,472	3,092,163
1945		82·80	157,201	3,187,285
1946		93·60	171,051	2,787,293
1947			167,490	3,216,011
1948		See	172,991	3,537,815
1949		Appendix	174,236	3,126,177
1950		(page 273)	195,651	2,121,297

According to the Venn Commission, although sugar prices have risen in the post-war years, costs have risen at least as much, and in 1947 profits amounted to only $5·42 per ton. Dividends on capital amounted to 3·02 per cent. in 1945, 3·00 per cent. in 1946, and 2·32 per cent. in 1947, as compared with an average of 5 to 7 per cent. before the war.

Since the beginning of the war sugar has been exported under arrangements made between the sugar producers and the United Kingdom Government, which has resold part of its purchases to Canada. (For details of these arrangements and the subsequent long-term agreement see Appendix, page 273.) In 1947 and subsequent years a deduction of $13·20 per ton has been allocated to funds for Industrial Rehabilitation, Labour Welfare and Price Stabilisation. There is a tax of $1 per ton on all sugar produced. The price of sugar sold locally, which is determined by the Colony Government as part of the general system of price control, is below the export price: for example, in 1947 it was $70·57 per ton, in April 1948, $81·76 per ton and in March, 1949, after price increases had been agreed to, $104·16 per ton; during 1950, the average price was $104·16 per ton. (These prices are for "dark crystals", which account for about 80 per cent of sales within the Colony.) The greatly increased demand for rum in recent years has brought in substantial profits, but this demand was already slackening in 1949 and fell further in 1950.

The purchase of rice from the manufacturers and its sale in the Colony or for export are entirely in the hands of the Rice Marketing Board, which was first established in 1932 and has existed in its present form since 1946. It consists of 16 members who are appointed by the Governor, of whom four are officers in the public service, and eight are rice producers, selected from among members of the council of the Rice Producers' Association. Of the remaining four members, two are to be members of the Legislative Council. The Board has powers to purchase padi, sell it in the Colony or export it, or arrange for its manufacture into rice; it must not be exported without the Board's permission. The Board also has powers to fix grades of rice, and subject to the approval of the Governor it can determine the minimum purchase price of padi, the purchase price of rice and its sale price for consumption in the Colony; different prices may be fixed for different grades of rice. Retail sale prices are fixed by the Governor. The Board also has powers to determine the quantity of rice which manufacturers may return to growers for their own

Digitized by Google

consumption, and with the approval of the Governor it can suspend purchases if too much rice is being produced for consumption and export requirements.

The Board sells good quality seed to producers, and supplies equipment—e.g., ploughs, etc.—to them on easy repayment terms.

The production of rice has steadily increased in recent years, and there is a considerable export market for it in the West Indies; at present about half the quantity exported goes to Trinidad, and one-third to Barbados, the remainder going to the other West Indian Islands. The Board has a long-term export contract, running until 1955, with the East Caribbean Colonies (see Appendix, page 274). Prices, which differ considerably for the various grades of rice, have shown a rising tendency in recent years; both export and domestic selling prices were raised in 1947, retail prices within the Colony in 1948, and there were further increases in 1949 and 1950.

Production and exports have been as follows in recent years :—

RICE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS

Year	*Production Tons*	*Exports Tons*
1937	44,261	18,795
1938	42,165	12,911
1939	40,388	12,501
1940	30,948	11,691
1941	51,060	8,881
1942	49,042	22,480
1943	52,579	17,180
1944	58,942	24,593
1945	63,826	25,418
1946	64,472	22,620
1947	56,300	20,065
1948	64,000	17,540
1949	61,988	26,105
1950	52,576	29,066

The potential demand for rice exports is regarded as extremely large, and plans are under consideration for the expansion of rice output. A visiting commission of two United States experts has reported that the land potentially available for padi production amounts to 368,000 acres (as against the 75,480 acres cultivated in 1948), but soil surveys and costly major irrigation and drainage works will be necessary before bringing new areas into cultivation. Drainage work is at present proceeding to extend the area cultivated under the Government scheme at Mahaicony.

In the case of coconut production, the Government fixes prices for both copra and coconut products, and manufacturers of coconut products must be licensed. In 1948 prices were altered so as to encourage the production of copra and oil extracted from copra, but the supply of edible oils was not sufficient for the Colony's needs, and imports were necessary. In 1950 grading was introduced, with different prices for each of three grades.

About half the 1948 coffee crop was purchased by the Government. Purchases of ground provisions are made by the Government Marketing Organisation, which has given guaranteed prices for a period of three years. There is a Government organisation for the collection of milk for distribution in Georgetown. Both milk and meat prices are controlled, and meat purchases for the towns (Georgetown and New Amsterdam) are made through the Government Marketing Organisation. The transport to the consuming centres of the cattle raised on the hinterland savannahs is a considerable problem. It has been the practice for cattle to be driven down the trail to Takoma on the Berbice River; this takes an average of about 20 days, and the cattle lose a great deal of weight on the journey, while a certain proportion of them perish. Recently, however, the transport of beef by air has been developed, and about one-third of the supplies from the interior are now sent by this means, from the livestock station at Lethem, in the interior savannahs.

Forestry

The forest resources of British Guiana are very large; forests cover about 70,000 sq. miles, or more than four-fifths of the total land area, though only 14,000 sq. miles are regarded as at all accessible within the reasonably near future, i.e., the next 20 or 30 years. The forests are of the mixed tropical rain forest type, and contain hundreds of different species, many of which are at present unmarketable. The principal species of economic importance are :—

Greenheart is hard, heavy and durable. It is used locally for general constructional work and sea defences, and is exported to Britain and other countries, including the United States of America, for marine constructional work—e.g., piers, jetties piles, etc. Greenheart is not exported from other parts of the world. *Karakalli* (black) is similar to *Greenheart*.

Wallaba is durable and resinous; it is used locally for roofing, telephone poles, and firewood, and exported to the West Indies for telephone poles and firewood, and in the form of charcoal.

Mora is hard, and dark brown in colour. It is used locally for boat building, railway sleepers, floorings, and general constructional work, and is exported for railway sleepers. *Morabukea* is similar to *Mora*.

Crabwood is similar to mahogany in colour and characteristics. It is used locally for furniture and house-building, and is exported for cabinet work, show cases, panelling, etc.

Purpleheart is hard, heavy and purple in colour. It is used locally for flooring and ornamental work and is exported for these on a small scale.

There are a number of other useful trees. *Balata* (the coagulated latex of the *Bulletwood* tree) is exported for cable insulation, machine belting and golf balls. Its production in 1950 was 644,342 lb., about three-quarters of which came from the Rupununi. Considerable use is now made of air transport in bringing it to the coast.

Output of the principal timber products in 1950 was as follows :—

Greenheart	1,612,476 cubic feet
Other hardwoods ..	1,029,162 cubic feet
Softwoods	368,642 cubic feet
Firewood	104,167 tons
Charcoal	18,749,978 lb.

A limited import (up to 42,000 cubic feet) of softwoods (white pine and spruce) is permitted for doors, windows, and house repairs, but sufficient supplies of softwoods are probably available in the Colony, if they were made use of.

Most of the forests are Crown lands, and cutting is done privately under licence, largely by small operators who use fairly primitive methods, for example, haulage by cattle or winches, though a few larger operators use modern methods, including tractors, heavy logging trucks, and light railways. In 1948 there were 61 sawmills of varying sizes; the mills generally purchase from small producers, and do not undertake timber extraction themselves. A new large sawmill, with a capacity of 40,000–50,000 tons a year, is now being erected by the Colonial Development Corporation, and is expected to be completed early in 1953.

The production of timber has been increasing, in response to a growing demand both inside and outside the Colony, and there are various schemes for increasing output, which depend to a great extent on better transport facilities. The Colonial Development Corporation has purchased a concession of 93,000 acres at Manaka in the lower Essequibo River area and is also carrying out reconnaissance work in the Bartica triangle, where it has been granted a lease of nearly 600 sq. miles, regarding the possibilities of timber cutting. This area is the most accessible and the one in which the greater part of the timber-cutting already takes place. Messrs. Steel Bros.,

Digitized by Google

are acting as managing agents for the Corporation's forestry properties, which have been incorporated in a local company, British Guiana Timbers, Ltd.

Because of transport requirements, timber-cutting has taken place mainly on the banks of the rivers as far up as they are navigable, as a rule within a mile from the shore. Surveys carried out by the Forest Department in more accessible areas covering 2,871 sq. miles showed the following quantities of timber available :—

	million cubic feet
Greenheart ..	285·5
Wallaba ..	246·1
Mora	229·3
Morabukea ..	177·6
Crabwood ..	20·9
Other species ..	898·0
Total	1,857·5

The best reserves are stated to be in the Mazaruni-Essequibo area, south of Bartica ; there is also exploitable forest on the Demerara River and on the left bank of the lower Mazaruni River.

The cutting of timber is on such a small scale in relation to the total stock that conservation has not presented itself as a problem ; in the past selective felling—for Greenheart—has been practised, which necessarily raises costs, but it is now being stopped under the conditions of leases. The rate of growth in tropical conditions is very rapid and trees will re-establish themselves after cutting, and attain a reasonable size in a comparatively short period.

Royalties payable to the Government amount to 6 cents per cubic foot on Greenheart and other hard timbers, and on other timbers to 4 cents and 2½ cents per cubic foot according to type. The royalties payable were increased at the beginning of 1948, and receipts from royalties doubled as compared with the previous year.

Fisheries

The Colony's resources of fish, deep-sea, coastal and inland, are very considerable, and are comparatively little developed, though fish forms an important part of local diet.

Deep-water fishing in 30–60 fathoms is carried on about 60 miles off the coast, for red snapper and grouper. Five schooners, owned by a local firm, are engaged in the trade; the fish are caught by long line from the decks, and are cleaned and stowed in insulated holds, until they are transferred to the firm's cold storage premises in Georgetown. The oceanic or pelagic fisheries are quite unexploited.

Along the whole coast and in the estuaries a good deal of fishing is carried on by small sailing boats with shallow draft. There are about 730 fishing-boats and about 2,200 persons are engaged in fishing ; seines, lines and shrimp nets are used, and the main types of fish caught are mullet, queriman, snoek, and skinfishes.

The rivers contain a great variety of fish, which forms a large part of the diet of the Amerindians in the interior, and provide their supply of protein. A great deal of fishing takes place in the canals of the sugar plantations; this fishing is to some extent controlled. Some experimental attempts at fresh fish culture have been made, on a small scale, and other research is being undertaken.

There are 14 fishermen's co-operative associations for obtaining credit, purchasing supplies, etc., but the amount of business done by them has not been very great so far.

Landings of fish at Georgetown were 2,040 tons in 1949 ; there are no statistics of landings at other places. As the consumption of imported fish was approximately 2,100 tons in the same year, there is clearly scope for developing the home fishing industry and replacing imports. In particular, fish supplies in the country districts could be improved.

Minerals

After sugar, minerals are British Guiana's most important export, and in 1950 the value of mineral exports was £3,276,483. Of this total bauxite accounted for £2,881,759.

Large deposits of bauxite exist in the form of a belt extending roughly from the Essequibo River in the neighbourhood of Bartica across the Demerara River near Mackenzie to Kwakwani on the Berbice River. At present there are two mining companies engaged in bauxite production. The larger of the two is the Demerara Bauxite Co., Ltd. (a subsidiary of the Canadian Aluminium Co., Ltd.), which carries on operations at Mackenzie, while the Berbice Mining Co., Ltd. (a subsidiary of the American Cyanamide Corporation, Inc.), has a mining centre at Kwakwani on the Berbice River. The Demerara Co., began mining in 1917, in which year the production of bauxite was 2,000 tons ; in 1950 it was 1,585,417 tons, of which the Demerara Co., accounted for 1,461,653 tons. The output of the smaller company has increased considerably since production started in 1942. Production expanded very rapidly during the war as a result of the great demand for aluminium.

The annual output of bauxite in recent years has been as follows :—

BAUXITE PRODUCTION

	Tons	*Value* £		*Tons*	*Value* £
1937	500,707	358,290	1944	873,969	1,127,495
1938	376,368	420,890	1945	738,544	762,632
1939	476,014	601,951	1946	1,120,015	1,263,082
1940	624,487	838,281	1947	1,290,367	1,401,898
1941	1,072,616	1,455,507	1948	1,873,166	1,982,255
1942	1,116,463	1,503,186	1949	1,757,650	2,501,957
1943	1,901,393	2,270,811	1950	1,583,417	2,881,759

Approximately 2,400 persons were employed in bauxite mining in 1950. The amount of reserves is not known, but is undoubtedly large ; prospecting is being carried on by both companies. The bauxite won by the Demerara Co., is transported in sea-going vessels from Mackenzie, though the shallowness of the river often results in their being only partly loaded ; loading is completed in Trinidad, where a special transfer station has been built by the Canadian Aluminium Co. The company has a crushing and washing plant at Mackenzie, to which ore is brought from the mines by the company-owned railways.

Gold occurs in alluvial deposits throughout the northern part of the Colony, and also in the Rupununi district. Output is mainly secured from thousands of small workings, in which hand methods are generally employed, though one or two larger concerns are making use of mechanical methods. No reef suitable for working on a commercial basis has yet been discovered.

Of the four companies producing gold,—Cuyuni Goldfields, Ltd., British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd., and Messrs. Phang and Leung Bros., and Baird and Dragten—have had a fairly substantial output ; there are a number of other companies engaged in prospecting in various parts of the country. During 1950 Cuyuni Goldfields, Ltd., suspended operations. The Colonial Development Corporation has invested over £200,000 in British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd., to assist the company in dredging operations. There are

Digitized by Google

also a considerable number of small independent producers—" porknockers " as they are called—but it seems likely that most of the smaller deposits are now worked out, and that increased production must depend on operations on a larger scale.

The amount and value of gold output in recent years has been as follows :—

GOLD PRODUCTION

	Total extracted			*Total extracted*	
	Ounces	*Value* £		*Ounces*	*Value* £
1937	39,208	211,890	1944	18,986	127,480
1938	41,919	226,540	1945	22,533	154,440
1939	39,507	226,910	1946	24,741	206,170
1940	35,745	254,290	1947	26,389	227,275
1941	36,045	237,600	1948	20,648	177,831
1942	29,267	196,330	1949	21,098	182,100
1943	19,470	130,810	1950	13,739	133,173

Diamonds were first found in the Colony in 1887, and diamond bearing gravels exist in various parts of the interior. Deposits, which are entirely alluvial, are richest in the tributaries of the Mazaruni and Potaro Rivers, and are also found in the tributaries of the Cuyuni River and in the Ireng River. Diamond mining is carried on mainly by small producers using hand methods.

Output, prices and value in recent years have been as follows :—

DIAMOND PRODUCTION

	Total extracted— carats	*Price ex mine per carat*	*Value* £		*Total extracted— carats*	*Price ex mine per carat*	*Value* £
		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	
1937	35,038	2 8 10	85,840	1944	16,020	5 0 10	68,190
1938	31,690	2 7 9	78,570	1945	15,442	6 4 1	103,920
1939	33,390	2 13 2	88,510	1946	30,957	9 7 6	265,740
1940	27,473	3 7 8	96,130	1947	24,699	6 5 2	155,574
1941	26,027	3 7 8	91,980	1948	36,562	8 2 7	297,218
1942	22,207	4 0 6	83,310	1949	34,790	7 0 7	244,617
1943	18,272	4 12 2	77,280	1950	37,462	7 9 5	279,906

The diamond output is mainly exported. There is a small diamond-cutting industry in the Colony. A considerable amount of gold, on the other hand, is retained for use in the Colony, as can be seen from the following table :—

GOLD—DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS

Gold	*Production*	*Exports*	*Domestic Consumption*
	ounces	*ounces*	*ounces*
1937	39,208	39,047	161
1938	41,919	39,728	2,191
1939	39,507	38,473	1,034
1940	35,745	32,059	3,686
1941	36,045	29,140	6,905
1942	29,267	18,573	10,694
1943	19,470	11,614	7,856
1944	18,986	7,574	11,412
1945	22,533	9,711	12,822
1946	24,741	10,724	14,017
1947	26,389	16,771	9,618
1948	20,648	16,025	4,623
1949	21,098	16,331	4,767
1950	13,739	11,420	2,319

In 1948 an *ad valorem* tax of 25 per cent. was imposed on all gold used in the Colony for the manufacture of jewellery ; this tax caused exports to be maintained in spite of lower production. It was repealed in March, 1951. The East Indian population is accustomed to put its savings into gold, and there are about 250 local goldsmiths.

No other minerals are at present worked, but there are known to be large deposits of kaolin under the bauxite on the Demerara River. Low-grade manganese ore exists in various places in the north-west, colombite on the Mazaruni River and there are large deposits of white sand near the coast which may be suitable for glass-making. Small deposits of titanium, tungsten, mica, and quartz exist, and it is possible that there are large iron ore deposits in the interior. There are traces of a number of other minerals.

Although a good deal of mapping and geological survey work has been done, its results are still insufficiently comprehensive and thorough for exploration of the possibilities of mining development, and inadequate communications and transport facilities are also a serious obstacle.

Manufactures

Except perhaps for the sugar factories and the Government rice mill, there is nothing which can be described as large-scale manufacturing industry in British Guiana. There are, however, a number of small industries which produce for local needs, and in some cases also for export.

The census of 1946 gives the following statistics in regard to persons engaged in manufacture and repair :—

Industrial Employment		
Textiles, apparel		7,624
Other manufactures ..		4,810
Woodwork, furniture ..	1,079	
Printing, bookbinding ..	869	
Watchmaking, jewellery	883	
All other	1,979	
Sugar milling		3,702
Metal, machinery, vehicles		2,982
Other food, drink, ice ..		2,331
Sawmilling, boxmaking ..		1,767
All manufacture and repair		23,216

The textiles group is largely accounted for by dressmaking, tailoring, shoemaking, etc., and consists mainly of persons working on their own account. There are about 150 establishments engaged in furniture production, and nearly every village or community has its own woodworker ; doors, windows, etc., are made. The jewellery trade makes use of the gold found in the Colony. There is also production of soap, edible oils, cigarettes, matches, and drugs. In the metals and machinery group come repair of motor vehicles, boat building and repair, blacksmithing, repair of vehicles, and in the " other food " group are included rice milling, baking, aerated waters, etc. Sawmilling and boxmaking, like woodwork and furniture making, utilise the Colony's own timber resources. There would appear to be considerable scope for the development of timber-using industries, since at the present time there is no production of wood-pulp, veneers,

Digitized by Google

plywood, etc. A small brick and tile making plant has recently been opened near Mackenzie, and improvement in housing conditions will obviously lead to an increased demand for building materials.

The Co-operative Credit Banks undertake lending to small industries. No information is available regarding the amount of capital investment. No licensing system for industry exists.

Village Industries

It is difficult to draw a precise line of distinction between village and other industries, as many of those mentioned in the previous section are on a small scale and are carried on in country districts. The making of straw hats and handbags, and the preserving of fruit, are carried on as cottage occupations, and production of this kind is being encouraged by the Social Welfare Division of the Local Government Department.

Other Economic Activities

The tourist industry is not of importance ; no particulars are available as to the amounts spent by tourists. Georgetown has four hotels, also a number of private hotels and boarding houses.

According to the census of 1946 there were 59 barristers and solicitors, 67 doctors, 33 dentists and five veterinary surgeons ; 745 trained nurses and 2,063 school teachers (921 men and 1,142 women), in the Colony.

Co-operative Movement

The Co-operative Movement in British Guiana made a comparatively late start, and was little developed until after the appointment of a Co-operative Organiser in 1945. Except for the Co-operative Credit Banks, which receive a good deal of Government financial support and thus are not entirely co-operative in principle, there were only six societies—mainly for thrift and credit—in existence at that time. These were registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Ordinance of 1931, which provides for official registration, public audit, and inspection of books by members, and prohibits any one shareholder (except another society) from having a shareholding of more than $960 (corresponding to the usual British limit of £200).

In June, 1948, a Co-operative Department was established, with a Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who was subsequently given the title of Commissioner for Co-operative Development, and a new Co-operative Societies Ordinance came into effect in September, 1948. This Ordinance gives the Registrar powers of inspection and audit, lays down voting rules, and provides that producers' societies can require undertakings of exclusive supply of commodities for disposal from their members. The monetary limit on shareholding is removed, but no member (except another society) can hold more than one-fifth of the total shares.

At the end of 1950 there were 120 registered societies of which two were secondary societies. The total membership of the primary societies was 4,763 ; 20 of them were limited liability credit societies, with 1,493 members, and paid-up shares with a value of $28,386 ; 29 were thrift societies, for salary and wage-earners, with a membership of 459, and savings amounting to $9,425 ; there were ten consumer societies, with a membership of 596 and a share capital of $5,048 ; five women's societies, with a membership of 131 (these were thrift societies, but many women belong to the other types of societies also). There were four producers' societies, with a membership of 179 and shares amounting to $10,295 ; one of these was for the co-operative sale of milk, and two for the joint farming of rice land, with mechanical equipment hired from the Rice Marketing Board, and one for the extraction of timber. The remaining 50 societies had a membership of 1,905, and savings amounting to $8,265. The Co-operative Department has encouraged them to direct their energies to thrift and credit in the first instance ; two of them, however, have leased land for farming settlement, to the extent of 5,000 acres and 76 acres respectively.

The Government is giving every possible encouragement to the co-operative movement as a means of encouraging self-help and developing the capacity for the management of organisations. It is, however, a recognised principle of the movement that it relies on its own financial resources, and except for an annual grant to the B.G. Co-operative Union, it does not receive Government financial aid. Although for the time being they are on a fairly small scale, co-operative activities are making good progress and very few failures have occurred among societies. An Ordinance passed in 1950 permits school children under 16 years of age to become co-operative society members.

In July, 1949, the British Guiana Co-operative Union, to which the individual societies belong, was registered, with the objects of (1) providing audit and supervision ; (2) directing the policy of the British Guiana Co-operative Movement as a whole ; (3) informing the public on co-operative works and development ; (4) carrying out educational work among co-operative members, and providing tuition for the employees of societies. It obtains its funds from the member societies, and from an annual grant from the Government, and publishes a quarterly magazine, " The Co-operator ".

In December, 1950, the British Guiana Co-operative Supply Association, Ltd., was registered with the objects of (1) purchasing and distributing equipment, stationery and other materials required by Co-operative Societies in their work (2) acting as an agent for its members for the bulk buying and supply of articles of merchandise required by them (3) importing and distributing goods to members (4) arranging for the sale of members' produce.

Employment and Labour Supply

At the census of 1946, the total number of persons aged 15–64 was 205,311 (106,664 males and 108,647 females). The total number of gainfully occupied persons was 146,164 (105,584 males and 40,580 females), and there were 94,392 wage or salary earners (67,445 males and 26,947 females). Only 2,414 persons (1,697 males and 717 females) were unemployed. There were also 41,556 workers on their own account (30,689 males and 10,867 females), and 6,839 unpaid helpers (4,375 males and 2,464 females) —mainly members of families.

Of the wage or salary earners, the largest category were those defined in the census as unskilled (41,628 males and 14,486 females, total 56,114). These included general labourers, labourers in agriculture and forestry, and fishermen. The category of skilled workers (18,857 males and 5,005 females, total 23,862) included mechanics, woodworkers, watchmakers and jewellers, tailors and shoemakers, and painters ; most of the women were dressmakers. Semi-skilled occupations (8,203 men and 728 women, total 8,931) included quarry and mine labourers, various transport and factory occupations, and seamen.

Registered unemployment has remained at a consistently low level—in 1949 the maximum number of registered unemployed in any month was 1,479 and the minimum number 880, but only a proportion of those who are unemployed register. During the post-war years the supply of and demand for labour would appear to have about balanced, though there has perhaps been some shortage of skilled labour, but with the growth of population which is to be expected with improved health conditions, this may not continue to be the case. On the sugar estates—which are, of course, the largest employers —the labour position has special features which are not found in other occupations. The work is to some extent seasonal, since there is a greater demand for labour at the reaping periods, and few of the workers put in a whole week's work, as they generally have plots of their own to which they devote some of their time. As a result there tends to be a shortage of labour during the cutting periods, especially at weekends, as the workers are accustomed to work on the estates during the middle of the week ; at other periods, when there is less work on the estates, there tends to be a surplus of labour.

Digitized by Google

The total resident population of the sugar estates was 77,985 in 1949 and 80,170 in 1950. The weekly average of employment on the estates—both in the fields and factories—is about 28,000, about 17,000–20,000 of whom are likely to be resident workers and 8,000–11,000 non-resident workers. The weekly average number of field workers in 1949 was 21,423 of whom 14,721 were men, 5,612 women and 1,090 young persons ; in the factories the corresponding number was 5,791, of whom 343 were women. In both cases about half the workers were non-resident.

In 1947 a Committee of Investigation reported that because of seasonal fluctuations, the average amount of work available throughout the year for male employees was only 3·66 days a week, and that they actually worked an average of only 2·3 days per week in the case of residents and three days per week in the case of non-residents. The position in regard to women workers was similar. Factory work is also seasonal ; factory grinding periods amount to 30–35 weeks per year, and only a few factory employees, e.g., engineers and mechanics, have a full year's work.

In the fields, about three-quarters of the workers are on piece-work ; they determine their own hours of work which are generally long, perhaps nine hours or more because of the practice of squeezing the week's work into three or four days. Time-workers generally do a nine-hour day. In the factories time-work is the rule, and there is an eight-hour day, two or three shifts being worked daily. Time-workers in the field are mainly old and young persons, whose output is comparatively low.

In other industries more usual conditions obtain, and the eight-hour day and 48-hour week are customary ; in printing and the metal industries there is a 45-hour week. In the industries in the interior—e.g., gold-mining and sawmilling—workers are apt to return to the coastal districts after a period of work, and there is a fairly high labour turnover ; such workers are usually employed on contract.

In Georgetown there has since 1943 been a Port Labour Registration scheme, with the object of bringing about decasualisation among dockworkers. At the end of 1949 there were 365 stevedores and 376 wharfworkers, and at the end of 1950, 364 stevedores and 381 wharfworkers on the register.

The Government is, next to the sugar industry, the largest employer of labour, and the carrying out of various development schemes is causing the numbers of Government employees to remain at a fairly high level, though it fluctuates considerably ; for example, the average number employed by the Public Works Department grew from 5,553 in 1947 to 18,557 in 1948, but fell again to about 5,000 in 1949, and still further to about 2,000 in 1950. About 1,200 persons were employed by the Transport and Harbours Department in 1949.

During 1948, 1949, and 1950, the tendency was for wages to rise over practically the whole field of employment. The same tendency showed itself in the cost of living ; in 1949 the Georgetown workers' index was about five per cent. above the level of 1948, and 106 per cent. above the level of 1938, and in 1950 there was a further rise of nine per cent. above the 1949 level, bringing the index to 124 per cent. above the 1938 level. A special index is used to measure the cost of living for East Indian workers on the sugar estates, and this was in 1949 139 per cent., and in 1950, 160 per cent., above the level of 1938. The Venn Commission estimated that in 1948 the real earnings of male piece-workers on the sugar estates were about 14 per cent. above pre-war, those of female workers (other than resident piece-workers) about 10 per cent. below, and those of all other categories of sugar estate workers about the same as pre-war. There is not sufficient information available regarding the pre-war earnings of workers in other industries for an estimate of their relative post-war level.

Earnings of field-workers on the sugar estates vary widely in accordance with the energy and capacity of the worker concerned. In 1950 the average daily earnings of resident men field-workers were $2·35, and of non-resident $2·45.

Minimum daily rates, fixed by negotiated agreements between employers and employed, in various other occupations, were as follows at the end of 1950 :—

Wage rates

Sugar Industry—				$
Field time-workers :	Adult men			0·70
	Adult women			0·58
Factory workers :	Labourers—adult men			1·39
	adult women			0·81
Semi-skilled and skilled workers				1·51–4·41
Rice Industry (expansion scheme)—				
Labourers (field—ten-hour day)				1·50
(factory—eight-hour day)				1·20
Tractor Operators				3·20
Bauxite Industry (Demerara Bauxite Co.)—				
Unskilled labourers				2·36
Painters				2·52
Carpenters				2·52–2·92
Masons				2·52–2·84
Motor Mechanics				2·52–3·08
Fitters				2·52–3·16
Tractor Operators				2·68
Government Public Works Department—				
Labourers :	Men (Georgetown)			1·82
	Women (Georgetown)			1·34
	Men (Other districts)			1·54
	Women (Other districts)			1·15
Painters, Carpenters, Skilled Tradesmen, Mechanics	(Georgetown)			2·60–2·80
	(Other districts)			2·28–2·52
Building—(Skilled tradesmen)				2·35–2·80
Saw Mills—				
Firemen (10-hour day) (Georgetown, Stampa, Kaow Island)		2·16		1·82
Millmen, Planemen, Mechanics, Blacksmiths		1·96	(Other areas)	1·68
Sawyers		1·76		1·50
Winchmen		1·68		1·42
Waterfront—				
Leading Hands		3·12		4·99
Winchmen		3·12	(Sundays and Public Holidays)	4·99
Stevedores		2·92		4·71
Sugar Packers	(Weekdays)	2·48		4·58
Ordinary Packers		2·12		3·96
Truckers		2·00		3·79
Female Workers		1·44		2·83
Printing—				
Linotype Operators				2·24–4·80
Compositors				1·60–2·40
Binders				1·60–2·40
Press Operators				1·60–2·56
Guillotine Men				1·60–2·40
Metal Workshops and Foundries—				
Skilled Men				2·48–3·20
Gold Mining—				
Surface Labourers				1·68–1·98
Carpenters				2·06–2·24
Mechanics				2·44–2·55
Electricians				2·00–3·00
Blacksmiths				2·16
Turners				1·84

As from February, 1950, in order to secure better attendance, a bonus of 20 cents per ton has been paid to field-workers on the sugar estates who work at weekends, and both field and factory workers who work on 75 per cent. of the days on which work is available during the season are to receive a week's paid holiday. The Demerara Bauxite Company gives paid annual holidays to its permanent employees, at the rate of six days for workers who have been employed for five years, nine days for an employment period of five to ten years, and 12 days for

Digitized by Google

over ten years. The Company also operates a non-contributory pensions and life assurance scheme for employees over 18 who have more than three months service ; the retirement age is 60 for men and 55 for women.

The labour position is likely to be affected by the mechanisation of field work on the sugar estates, which will tend to reduce the demand for labour, and to increase the labour available for other occupations. Facilities for providing technical training to increase the supply of skilled labour have been inadequate, though some mechanical training has been given on the sugar estates and some vocational training has been provided by the Government ; this latter has so far consisted mainly of the teaching of carpentry for boys, and domestic science for the girls, in the schools, but a new Technical Institute is now being built which will provide facilities for 500 day and 500 evening students. Of 427 males and 439 females who received vocational training in 1949, 248 were boys receiving carpentry instruction and 184 were girls receiving domestic science instruction. Some companies—e.g., the Demerara Bauxite Company, which has a regular engineering apprenticeship scheme for youths between 16 and 21—have set out to provide the necessary training for their own skilled employees, and committees have been appointed to study the regularising of apprenticeship in engineering and the building and allied trades throughout the Colony.

Neither immigrant nor emigrant labour is important in the Colony.

Fuel and Power (including Water)

British Guiana's resources of fuel and power consist of water-power, wood, and (in so far as better alternative uses for it are not found) bagasse, the by-product of sugar refining.

Water-power resources are undoubtedly large, but are at present quite unexploited. About 50 potential sites for hydro-electric power stations have been listed, and under an agreement between the Government and the Demerara Bauxite Co., gauging stations, for measuring the flow of water, are being maintained at seven points on the Essequibo, Cuyuni, Potaro and Demerara Rivers respectively.

There are three electric power stations in the Colony. The largest, at Georgetown, is operated by the Demerara Electric Co., a subsidiary of a Canadian company. It has a maximum capacity of 6,700 kW., and supplies 16,000 consumers. Wood and oil fuel are used. At New Amsterdam there is a municipal diesel-operated plant of 170 kWA., supplying 1,500 customers, and at Bartica a private plant supplying 690 customers. The Demerara Bauxite Co. operates two stations of 2,500 kW. (diesel) and 1,500 kW. (steam), respectively, for supplying the power needed for the Company's activities.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

During the period 1938 to 1950, annual revenue and expenditure have been as follows :—

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—TOTALS

$000s

	Colony Revenue	*Revenue from Development Funds*	*Other Grants*	*Total Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*
1938	6,089	163	—	6,252	6,115
1939	6,236	62	—	6,298	6,512
1940	6,912	53	—	6,965	6,759
1941	8,530	3	—	8,533	7,073
1942	10,060	40	—	10,100	8,881
1943	12,483	201	—	12,684	11,187
1944	12,833	1,245	—	15,048	14,066
1945	12,270	2,002	—	15,209	16,264
1946	13,657	1,506	—	15,163	15,613
1947	17,719	2,363	—	20,082	19,737
1948	19,791	1,434	800	22,025	21,045
1949	22,039	1,378	—	23,418	22,329
1950	21,625	1,103	—	22,755	24,642

Leaving out of account development schemes carried out with funds specially provided for this purpose, Colony revenues have been sufficient to cover expenditure and leave some surplus, except in the years following 1931, when difficulties arose owing to the depressed condition of the Colony's economy, and the fact that large additional interest burdens had been incurred as a result of loans raised in 1929. For some years loans and grants were provided from Imperial funds to bridge the deficiency. As compared with before the war, the amounts of both revenue and expenditure have greatly increased ; this is partly the result of rising price levels, but there has been a considerable real increase in revenue and expenditure also, largely accounted for by greater outlay on Development and Welfare schemes and social services. There was a moderate deficit in 1950.

As the following tables show, the pattern of both revenue and expenditure has considerably altered as compared with before the war. The proportion of direct taxation has grown, and that of indirect taxation diminished. Debt charges are a smaller proportion of an increased total expenditure, while most other items of expenditure have risen proportionately with the total. Development expenditure, paid for from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, is very much larger than before the war.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

REVENUE	1938		1949		1950	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
Income Tax	509,827	8·37	5,068,677	23·00	5,911,357	27·30
Import Duties	3,011,118	49·46	7,703,597	34·95	8,392,321	38·76
Export Duties	61,746	1·01	542,194	2·46	500,000	2·31
Excise and Licences	1,163,687	19·12	2,808,726	12·74	2,883,106	13·32
Internal Revenue	262,259	4·31	479,925	2·18	553,557	2·55
Fees of Court	270,040	4·44	849,840	3·86	966,867	4·47
Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones	252,325	4·14	778,429	3·53	758,927	3·50
Rents, other income from lands, forests, mines	227,273	3·73	529,181	2·40	516,819	2·39
Interest and refunds	239,496	3·93	524,351	2·38	484,466	2·24
Miscellaneous	58,088	0·95	570,360	2·59	676,500	3·12
Extraordinary receipts	33,031	0·54	2,183,965	9·91	7,839	0·04
Total Colony Revenue	6,088,890	100·00	22,039,245	100·00	21,651,759	100·00
Colonial Development Funds	163,203		1,378,461		1,103,199	
Total Revenue	**$6,252,093**		**$23,417,706**		**$22,754,958**	

Digitized by Google

EXPENDITURE	1938		1949		1950	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
1. Debt Charges	1,143,826	19·15	1,396,870	6·67	1,255,983	5·34
2. Administration	1,555,200	25·03	4,827,452	23·05	5,932,117	25·20
Law and Order	687,494	11·50	1,972,899	9·42	1,940,340	8·24
General	867,706	14·53	2,854,553	13·63	3,991,777	16·96
3. Economic Development	221,585	3·71	2,383,646	11·37	2,485,539	10·56
4. Social Services	1,216,363	20·37	5,309,398	25·34	6,274,211	26·65
Medical	604,912	10·13	2,352,441	11·23	2,488,290	10·57
Education	497,224	8·33	2,145,567	10·24	2,726,639	11·58
Other	114,227	1·91	811,390	3·87	1,059,282	4·50
5. Public Works	1,066,301	17·85	2,441,058	11·65	2,490,534	10·58
6. Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones	302,832	5·07	1,053,397	5·03	1,134,895	4·82
7. Defence	26,998	0·45	89,641	0·43	118,166	0·50
8. Pensions and Gratuities	426,092	7·14	750,081	3·58	848,514	3·60
9. Transport and Harbours (net)	148,037	2·48	1,721,254	8·22	1,460,906	6·21
10. Colonial Emergency Measures (net)	—	—	1,119,488	5·34	871,036	3·70
Subsidies	—	—	196,666	0·94	—	—
11. Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Measures	—	—	—	—	851,735	3·62
12. Retrospective Pay (unallocated)	45,843	0·77	51,168	0·24	1,363	0·01
Total	6,153,097	103·00	21,143,273	100·92	23,725,653	100·79
Deduct charges included in Item 1 set off against Revenue of Item 9	183,479	3·00	192,708	0·92	185,768	0·79
Total Colony Expenditure	5,969,618	100·00	20,950,565	100·00	23,539,285	100·00
Colonial Development Fund Schemes	145,354		1,378,461		1,103,199	
Total Expenditure	$6,114,972		$22,329,026		$24,642,484	

At the end of 1950, the Public Debt was composed as follows :—

Public Debt

	$	$
External Debt :		
Public loans raised in United Kingdom		
3 per cent. Stock (1975–80)	10,032,000	
3¼ per cent. Stock (1962)	3,888,000	
3 per cent. Stock (1959–69)	1,850,000	
		15,770,000
Loans raised by Crown Agents under Inter-colonial Loans Scheme :		
3 per cent. Stock (1960)		1,230,000
Colonial Development Fund Loans	5,000	
Colonial Development and Welfare Loans	1,119,000	
		1,124,000
		18,124,000
Internal Debt :		
Public loans raised in the Colony :		
3½ per cent. Bonds (1976–86)	5,000,000	
3½ per cent. Bonds (1949–67)	212,000	
3 per cent. Bonds (1948–67)	412,000	
		5,624,000
Total		23,748,000

Assets and Liabilities in 1949 and 1950 were as follows :—

Assets and Liabilities

	1949	1950
Assets	$	$
Cash Balances	671,000	1,430,000
Joint Colonial Fund	2,011,000	1,147,000
Remittances (in transit)	5,000	268,000
Investments (at market value)	1,915,000	970,000
Interest free loan to H.M. Treasury	2,000,000	—
	6,202,000	3,815,000
Add		
Excess of advances over deposits	2,928,000	3,005,000
	9,530,000	6,820,000

Other current assets not included in the above are Unallocated Stores and the sum of $907,000 representing working capital of Government undertakings.

	1949	1950
Liabilities	$	$
General Revenue Balance	7,761,000	5,887,000
Loan Balance	1,769,000	933,000
	9,530,000	6,820,000

The Sinking Fund total amounted to $2,213,276 at the end of 1949. The Colony's Revenue Balances have grown steadily in recent years ; they amounted to $982m. at the end of 1940, $5,901m. at the end of 1945, and $7,761m. at the end of 1949, though there was a fall to $5,887m. at the end of 1950. As well as the regular Debt Charges, the Government has a liability, amounting to $84,378 annually, in respect of outstanding Railway Permanent Annuities and Perpetual Stock. A further loan of $7,200,000, at 3½ per cent., redeemable in 1966–8, was issued in London in 1951.

British Guiana's allocation of funds under the 1945 Colonial Development and Welfare Act amounts to $12m., of which by 1950 approximately $9m. had been either spent or earmarked for approved schemes.

As can be seen from the tables given above, about half the Colony's revenue is derived from indirect taxation (mainly Customs and Excise) and about one-quarter from direct taxation (wholly income tax, now that the Excess Profits Tax, which was introduced during the war, has been brought to an end). Data do not exist for a reliable estimate of the burden of indirect taxation on different sections of the community at present ; it has been estimated that in 1942 indirect taxation took about 11 per cent. of all money incomes, and about 10 per cent. of the income of non-income tax payers. These proportions may now be rather less.

The income tax paying class is a very small percentage of the total population ; for the assessment year 1949 only 3,504 individuals were liable to tax, and 3,040 of these were paying tax on assessable incomes of under $3,600 per annum. The gross income of assessable individuals was approximately $10m., of which half was chargeable to tax. About three-quarters of income tax receipts, however, are derived from taxation on companies, of which 163 paid tax in 1949.

Digitized by Google

It is estimated that in 1942 persons in the income tax paying class paid about 20 per cent. of their incomes in taxation, of which seven per cent. was direct taxation ; these amounts are likely to have increased since then, as income tax rates have risen and rates of customs and excise duty have not fallen to any extent. The rates of income tax in 1951 were as follows :—

	per cent.
On first $1,200 of chargeable income	6
„ next $2,400 „ „ „	12
„ „ $2,400 „ „ „	24
„ „ $2,400 „ „ „	40
„ „ $2,400 „ „ „	50
„ remainder „ „ „	60
Life Insurance Companies	15
Other Companies	40 per cent. on first $50,000 of chargeable income, 45 per cent. on remainder.

The numbers of taxpayers in 1950 were :

2,381	with income not exceeding $1,200
1,017	„ „ „ „ $3,600
298	„ „ „ „ $6,000
107	„ „ „ „ $8,400
40	„ „ „ „ $10,800
40	„ „ over $10,800
Total 3,883	

In assessing individuals for income tax, personal allowances, and allowances for children, dependent relatives, etc., are made ; these allowances were increased in 1949. Residents in the Colony are assessed on their world income, whether this income is received in British Guiana or not. An arrangement has been made with the United Kingdom by which British Guiana retains the whole of the tax paid by United Kingdom firms operating in the Colony.

Receipts from Estate Duty are relatively small (they amounted to $59,000 in 1949), because of absentee proprietorship ; property owned by persons resident outside the Colony is not subject to British Guiana taxation on the death of the owner. Rates of Estate Duty are from ½ per cent. on property of net value $500–$2,500, to 60 per cent. on property of net value over $10m.

Under an Ordinance passed in 1949, to encourage economic development, gold and diamond mining companies are permitted to write off the full amount of expenditure on exploration and many kinds of development work, and in respect of exhaustion and wear and tear of property, at the rate of 20 per cent. annually. They are also permitted to set off losses made in years preceding the assessment year, against profits, until the losses are completely recouped, and for a period of five years they are taxed at the rate of only 20 per cent. on their chargeable income. Under Ordinances passed in 1951 the Governor-in-Council is given powers to declare any trade or business (other than a gold or diamond mining company) to be of a developmental and risk-bearing nature, and as such exempt from income tax for a period of five years ; losses made during this period may be set off against subsequent income before tax is computed. Under other provisions, which apply to all the important industries in the Colony, special allowances are given on all capital expenditure on buildings, machinery and plant, scientific research, housing for workers, and the purchase of patent rights incurred after 1st January, 1949. The Governor-in-Council can also allow the import free of duty of machinery and boats, and building materials for the erection of mills, factories and hotels, and of furniture and equipment for hotels, in connection with the establishment of new industries or the extension of existing industries. This concession applies only to imports from Commonwealth sources (unless the goods in question can only be obtained from other sources), and it does not cover goods imported for replacements and renewals.

The table above gives an indication of the present pattern of Government expenditure. The largest item consists of expenditure on economic activities and development ; if the sums spent in 1949 on Public Works, Economic Development, Colonial Emergency Measures (which are mainly of an economic character) and the Transport and Harbours deficit are taken together, it amounts to about 37 per cent. of the total. Some part of the Postal and Telecommunications deficit also could reasonably be included under this head. Next in importance is Social Services expenditure, amounting to 25 per cent. of the total in 1950. General Administration, Defence and Retrospective Pay account for another 25 per cent. The relative burden of debt charges has been much lightened by the fall in the value of money, and is now under six per cent. of the total, though the floating of new loans is likely to lead to an increase.

Local Government

The municipalities of the two urban centres—Georgetown and New Amsterdam—have a considerable amount of independent authority to administer services—for example, road maintenance, water supply, public health, drainage, housing, etc.—and they are empowered to obtain revenue by levying rates and taxes on property. In New Amsterdam revenue is also obtained from the sale of electric power.

Local revenue and expenditure in Georgetown and New Amsterdam have been as follows in recent years :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—URBAN

	1938	1948	1949	1950
	$	$	$	$
Georgetown—				
Revenue ..	723,553	1,173,892	1,270,795	1,517,867
Expenditure ..	695,179	1,186,277	1,261,287	1,326,670
New Amsterdam—				
Revenue ..	102,588	184,889	241,501	277,117
Expenditure ..	107,746	201,920	209,214	254,547

Rural Authorities have powers to levy rates on property and land (including Crown and Colony lands held under lease), and to fix assessments, but rates must be approved by the Local Government Board and can be fixed by it if they are not approved by a majority of the councillors of either Village Councils or Country Authorities. The Government gives them financial assistance, in the form of grants and loans on easy terms, on the recommendation of the Local Government Board. Their main work consists of drainage and irrigation, and the maintenance of dams, roads, bridges, and other amenities.

At the end of 1950 the outstanding amount of loans from the Government to rural authorities was $142,229 ; new loans amounting to $42,121 were granted in 1950. Drainage rates by rural local authorities in 1950 amounted to $128,767, of which the Government contributed $76,042.

The revenue and expenditure of rural local authorities has been as follows in recent years :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—RURAL

	1938	1948	1949	1950
	$	$	$	$
Village districts—				
Revenue	86,162	199,111	227,749	271,506
Expenditure.. ..	84,831	204,454	215,902	251,240
Country districts—				
Revenue	63,030	119,797	167,711	113,913
Expenditure.. ..	59,198	120,400	161,463	111,136

Digitized by Google

Currency and Banking

The basis of the British Guiana currency is, like that of other Colonies, the sterling exchange standard. The unit of currency is the West Indies dollar, the value of which is 4s. 2d. ; it is divided into 100 cents. Until 1952 the currency has consisted of notes issued by the Government, backed by Government-held securities amounting to 110 per cent. of their value ; local silver coins—value 4d. ; and United Kingdom silver and copper coins. No gold coins, foreign currency or Bank of England notes are in circulation. Notes were also issued by the two commercial banks operating in the Colony, Barclays (D. C. and O.) and the Royal Bank of Canada, and notes issued in Trinidad also circulated in British Guiana. In 1952 the first stage of the new unified currency arrangements for Eastern Caribbean Colonies came into operation (for details see Appendix, page 273). There are local exchange controls which though legally and administratively independent, are patterned on the United Kingdom system of exchange controls.

Statistics of the amount of notes and other currency in circulation are as follows :—

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

	1938	1946	1948	1949	1950
	$	$	$	$	$
Government currency notes	671,000	7,391,000	8,996,000	9,166,000	9,431,000
Local silver (4d.) coin	—	80,000	80,000	83,160	84,000
United Kingdom silver coin	—	1,760,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,150,000
,, ,, copper coin	—	80,000	81,000	86,000	86,000
Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.)	538,935	401,835	817,005	655,470	681,570
Royal Bank of Canada	360,505	111,195	72,930	78,050	60,100

The commercial banks undertake crop advancing—e.g., to sugar producers for wages payments—but they do not on the whole lend to the smaller farmers. All classes of farmers, on the other hand, receive loans from the Co-operative Credit Banks, which are accustomed to borrow at three per cent. and lend at six per cent. There are 26 of these banks, which are controlled by a Board of seven members appointed by the Governor, with the Director of Agriculture as its chairman. Any group of 15 or more persons can join together to form such a bank ; the Board has power to inspect books, appoint representatives to committees of management, and assume control if the bank's accounts are unsatisfactory. The banks make loans to members for agricultural development, payment of debts or mortgages on land, purchase of animals and equipment, and purchase or repair of buildings. They have also acted as agents for the administration of Government Food Production loans, which have been used to stimulate the production of rice and corn. These loans amounted to $160,859 in 1948 and $211,092 in 1949 ; they have now been terminated. Other advances made by the banks were $210,902 in 1948 and $265,469 in 1949. Further sources of credit are building societies, and the Secondary and Minor Industries Board, which has made loans to fishermen and small industries, to a total of $17,857. Credit is also granted to small producers by landlords and owners of rice mills.

The amounts held by Post Office Savings Bank depositors have been as follows :—

	$
1938 ..	2,701,891
1946 ..	11,216,408
1948 ..	12,168,517
1949 ..	13,167,828
1950 ..	13,595,000

The habit of saving is also being encouraged through the Co-operative Movement.

Private Investment

Locally-registered companies with a nominal capital of over $400,000 are as follows :—

COMPANIES

Name of Company	*Nominal capital ($)*	*Activities*
Demerara Bauxite Company	6,000,000	Mining (controlled by Canadian Aluminium Co.)
*Bookers Drug Stores	2,000,000	Chemists and Druggists
*Ressouvenir Estates	1,500,000	Sugar Producers
*Corentyne Sugar Company	1,200,000	Sugar Producers
*Enmore Estates	1,200,000	Sugar Producers
Plantation Bauxite Company	1,000,000	Mining
Sprostons	1,000,000	General and Shipping Merchants
Demerara Mining Development	1,000,000	Mining
Demerara Electric Company	850,000	Electricity Supplies
Rupununi Development Company ..	700,000	Cattle Farmers
William Fogarty	600,000	General Merchants
Berbice Development Company ..	500,000	Sugar Producers and General Merchants (controlled by S. Davson and Company)
Demerara Tobacco Company	500,000	Tobacconists
Garnett and Company	500,000	General Merchants
Greenheart Lumber Company (1946) ..	500,000	Lumber Merchants
Wieting and Richter	500,000	General Merchants
Charlestown Sawmills	400,000	Timber Merchants

* Controlled by Booker Bros., McConnell and Co.

In several cases, as indicated above, the control of these companies lies outside the Colony.

Non-resident companies with a capital—registered or authorised—of over $400,000 and substantial interests in British Guiana, are as follows :—

Digitized by Google

	Nominal Capital ($)	*Registered Head Office*	*Activities*
Booker Bros., McConnell and Company	5,760,000	Great Britain	General Merchants
Rupununi Gold Mining Company (Canada)	5,000,000	Canada	Mining
United Molasses Company	4,800,000	Great Britain	Sugar and Rum producers
Barima Gold Mining Company (Canada)	4,000,000	Canada	Mining
Bookers Demerara Sugar Estates	3,360,000	Great Britain (private company controlled by Booker Bros., McConnell and Co.)	Sugar Producers and General Merchants.
Azemu Gold Mines (Canada)	3,000,000	Canada	Mining
British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields	2,400,000	Great Britain	Mining
Demerara Company	464,000	Great Britain	General Merchants

An investment of $1,000,000 has been made by the Colonial Development Corporation in British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields.

A number of banking, insurance, and other companies operating internationally, whose activities in British Guiana are a comparatively small proportion of their total activities, have not been included.

There is a building society, known as the New Building Society, which is empowered to receive deposits and loans from the issue of shares and also from the Colony Government, the Central Housing and Planning Authority, or Local Authorities. It can carry out housing schemes on behalf of the Government, Local Authorities, or the Central Housing and Town Planning Authority.

National Income

No estimates of the national income have been made since the end of the war, but a computation was made by Dr. F. C. Benham in 1942 and some of his figures were revised by the then Economic Adviser to the Colony, O. A. Spencer, in 1944. Prices have of course risen considerably since these estimates were made and the present-day figures would undoubtedly be a good deal larger in terms of money ; moreover, the rise in prices has been uneven in respect of different commodities.

The estimates made in 1942 and 1944 are as follows :—

NATIONAL INCOME
$000s

	1942 (*Benham*)	1944 (*Spencer*)
Production		
Agricultural, Forest and Mineral	38,900	40,600
Manufactures and Utilities	6,800	7,300
Government Services	5,500	10,300
Distribution of Imports	6,000	9,000
Other Services	6,400	7,000
Rental value of houses	4,400	4,600
New Construction	1,200	2,400
Total	69,200	81,200
Less Cost of Imported Materials and other charges included above	16,900	20,300
Gross Total	52,300	60,900
Less Net Income paid abroad	2,400	2,500
National Income	49,900	58,400

These estimates make allowance for deduction of expenditure on maintaining assets (in order to maintain their income-yielding capacity) where imported replacements of machinery are involved, but not in the case of, for example, labour employed in repairing buildings, and other similar items. Nor is any deduction made in respect of the annual expenditure on sea and river defences, and irrigation and drainage works—again except for machinery replacements.

According to Dr. Benham's calculations, the aggregate values of the principal products were as follows in 1942 :—

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

	Quantity produced	*Export and/or retail value $000s*
Agricultural, forest and mineral products		
Sugar	192,000 tons	10,650
Bauxite	1,116,000 tons	7,215
Rum	2,470,000 proof gallons	3,883
Rice	43,000 tons	3,350
Ground provisions and other vegetables	51,929 tons	2,801
Milk	4,774,700 gallons	1,995
Citrus and other fruit	—	1,628
Timber, etc.	—	1,233
Meat	—	1,156
Gold	29,300 ounces	950
Fish	—	855
Principal manufactures :		
Bread and confectionery	17,337,000 lb.	1,387
Drugs, cosmetics, etc.	—	1,000
Cigarettes	160 million	950
Jewellery	—	850

Dr. Benham estimated consumption to be $44,900,000, i.e., $5,000,000 less than the national income, the difference being accounted for by income and excess profits taxes ($3,400,000), and savings, hoardings, and debt repayments ($1,600,000). The main items of consumption (by individuals, including consumption by growers of their own produce) were as follows :—

	$'000s
Food	19,500
Rent, household expenses	9,650
Clothing, jewellery	7,250
Drink, tobacco, etc.	5,000
Miscellaneous	3,500

In 1942 income per head of population was $138 ; by 1949, with the general rise in money values, it was likely to have been approximately half as much again. No information is available as to the distribution of income between classes of producers and other groups, except in so far as this is provided by the statistics already given of the value of production of various commodities. The only statistics of distribution of income between individuals are those provided by income tax assessments, which have been already quoted (see pages 74 and 75), and which show that in 1950 less than 4,000 persons had incomes of more than $1,000 annually in the case of a single man, and $1,500 in the case of a married man (these being the amounts of personal allowances so that no incomes of less than this sum are assessable to tax). Statistics on the aggregate amounts of wages payable are available in respect of the sugar industry, in which the total wage-bill was $4,407,000 in 1938, $5,580,000 in 1942, $7,480,000 in 1946, $11,689,000 in 1949, and $13,173,000 in 1950.

Digitized by Google

Cost of Living

Two cost of living indices are compiled, one of which is designed to show changes in the urban working-class cost of living (i.e., Georgetown and suburbs), and the other indicates changes in the cost of living for East Indian workers on sugar estates.

The former index is based on an investigation carried out in Georgetown and its suburbs in 1942, in which 1,418 budgets were obtained from households with incomes not exceeding $60 per month. Of these households, 381 had weekly incomes of under $5, 663 incomes of from $5 to $10, and 374 incomes of from $10 to $15. The average number of persons in the households supplying budgets was 4·6 and the average number of earners per household 1·5. An average of 2·1 persons per household were under 16 years of age.

The average weekly expenditure on various items, and the weighting consequently given in the index, were as follows :—

	$	Per cent.
Food	4·58	56
Clothing ..	1·07	13
Rent	1·07	13
Fuel and light ..	0·47	6
Other items ..	1·04	12
Total ..	8·23	100

For measuring the changes in this index, retail prices of food, fuel and light and other articles are obtained monthly from retailers in Georgetown and from Government markets, and information regarding rents is obtained quarterly from 100 households.

The movements of the index in recent years have been as follows :—

COST OF LIVING—GEORGETOWN

(1938 = 100)	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Yearly average ..	158	174	186	197	206	224

The index for East Indian workers on the sugar estates has been compiled from budgets of 186 families, comprising 353 persons, collected in 1938. Their expenditure (with the weights used in the index) included foodstuffs (75), clothing (12), fuel and light (4) and miscellaneous items (13), but not rent nor hospital costs, since these are generally free to resident workers. Information regarding local retail prices is collected monthly.

In view of the small number of budgets used, and for other reasons, this index is not regarded as giving more than a general indication of changes in the cost of living. Its movements have been as follows :—

COST OF LIVING FOR EAST INDIAN WORKERS

Yearly average	1938	100	1942	163	1946	204
	1939	103	1943	191	1947	216
	1940	121	1944	186	1948	230
	1941	135	1945	186	1949	237
					1950	260

Efforts have been made to keep down the cost of living by subsidisation of essential commodities, a comprehensive system of price control, and rent restriction ; these were all introduced during the early years of the war. The amount spent on subsidies reached a maximum of $2,385,364 in 1947, and fell to $1,993,060 in 1948 and $201,688 in 1949 ; the main commodity subsidised has been imported flour, which received $1,509,145 in 1947, $1,710,721 in 1948, and $131,624 in 1949, but salted fish, condensed milk and margarine have also received subsidies. In February, 1949, all subsidies were discontinued, and price increases offset by reduction of import duties, but when sterling was revalued relatively to the dollar in September, 1949, subsidies on flour, salted fish, and certain other commodities were re-introduced temporarily until the end of the year, and there were some further remissions of duty in order to prevent prices rising. The cost of these remissions of duty amounted to $407,716. The price control system covers all important commodities entering into domestic consumption ; profit margins, which are fixed by the public authorities, were reduced in December, 1948, in order to lower the level of prices.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The values of imports and exports in recent years have been as follows :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Net imports	*Parcel post imports*	*Domestic exports*	*Re-exports*
	$	$	$	$
1937	11,098,586	170,812	13,141,538	455,922
1938	10,358,029	194,198	13,064,358	262,943
1939	10,606,211	186,119	14,525,780	201,295
1940	13,905,701	155,848	14,920,004	292,219
1941	16,915,878	243,120	19,309,219	275,814
1942	17,946,444	212,986	19,103,285	203,735
1943	24,368,598	294,916	23,184,973	295,333
1944	21,878,534	200,000 (estimated)	24,008,999	500,333
1945	20,638,390	263,463	21,274,631	342,562
1946	25,881,734	645,815	26,701,600	340,232
1947	40,491,205	809,290	35,507,696	230,382
1948	47,141,929	752,349	36,641,037	286,722
1949	50,585,817	1,121,972	45,868,112	342,069
1950	54,460,788	1,480,094	50,308,658	596,804

Notes.—(*a*) The value of parcel post imports is not included in the figures for net imports. No figures are available for the value of parcel post exports (which are not included in the export figures given above) except for the following years :—

	$
1938	30,000 (estimated)
1946	70,000 (estimated)
1947	87,829
1948	66,100
1949	68,471
1950	221,596

(*b*) The value of ships' stores is included in both the export and re-export figures.

(*c*) Duties are included in the values of exports.

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal imports and exports in the years 1938, 1949 and 1950, and also the main sources of supply for imports, and destinations of exports, in each case.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	*Quantity*	1938 *Value* $	*Main Sources* $000s	*Quantity*	1949 *Value* $	*Main Sources* $000s	*Quantity*	1950 *Value* $	*Main Sources* $000s
Machinery	—	—	905,034	U.K. (530), U.S.A. (254), Canada (69).	—	7,533,155	U.S.A. (3,243), U.K. (3,162)	—	6,429,214	U.S.A. (3,334), U.K. (2,722), Canada (229).
Flour	Tons	16,300	905,920	U.K. (445), Canada (431)	17,928	3,146,500	Canada (3,138)	22,346	4,029,141	Canada (3,362), U.S.A. (667).
Metal manufactures	—	—	504,904	U.K. (348), Canada (80)	—	3,263,868	U.K. (2,693), Canada (191), U.S.A. (139).	—	2,592,378	U.K. (2,259).
Cotton piece goods	Sq. yds.	7,064,401	624,026	U.K. (535), U.S.A. (58)	5,659,641	2,429,643	U.K. (1,510), U.S.A. (490), Canada (183).	8,000,278	3,308,759	U.K. (1,663), Japan (614), India (514).
Distilled fuel oil and motor spirit	Gallons	2,578,783	282,425	Brit. W. Indies (272)	5,870,749	991,448	Brit. W. Indies (821), Venezuela (116).	8,328,312	1,844,020	Brit. W. Indies (1,672), Venezuela (171).
Crude petroleum and fuel oils	Gallons	2,785,903	90,627	Brit. W. Indies (71), Dutch W. Indies (16).	13,105,626	1,185,686	Brit. W. Indies (919), Venezuela (191), U.S.A. (52).	12,198,652	1,428,174	Brit. W. Indies (1,297), U.S.A. (63).
Chemical manures	Tons	12,404	402,889	U.K. (357), Belgium (30)	15,748	1,498,413	U.K. (1,467), Belgium (31)	10,454	1,104,203	U.K. (1,092).
Fish	Tons	2,175	303,655	Canada (234), U.K. (28), U.S.A. (25).	2,105	1,210,417	Canada (658), U.K. (505)	2,299	1,404,137	U.K. (707), Canada (633)
Boots and shoes (not rubber or canvas)	Doz. pairs	35,048	284,462	U.K. (204), Hong Kong (31)	21,719	851,094	U.K. (629), Canada (91)	24,130	1,038,269	U.K. (808).
Milk, condensed, powdered or evaporated	Tons	952	171,408	Holland (133), U.K. (21)	1,399	912,725	Canada (868), Australia (84)	2,195	1,478,180	Canada (555), Holland (458), Australia (338).
Electrical goods and apparatus	—	—	156,202	U.S.A. (85), U.K. (44)	—	1,244,103	U.K. (1,036), U.S.A. (93)	—	1,233,779	U.K. (1,046).
Motor cars, lorries and vans	Number	248	157,727	U.K. (86), Canada (59)	634	1,039,159	U.K. (1,007), U.S.A. (27)	711	1,305,255	U.K. (1,253).
Apparel	—	—	157,713	Hong Kong (72), U.K. (54)	—	841,734	U.K. (439), Hong Kong (124), Brit. W. Indies (116).	—	1,022,842	U.K. (629), Brit. W. Indies (217).
Bags and sacks of jute	Dozens	195,637	233,086	India (219), Brit. W. Indies (13)	423,795	2,463,450	India (2,269)	228,825	1,826,791	India (1,826).
Paper manufactures	—	—	235,830	U.K. (138), Canada (42)	—	642,069	U.K. (364), Canada (162)	—	890,430	U.K. (560), Canada (117).
Vegetables, fresh	Tons	5,140	224,790	Canada (109), Holland (42)	9,626	1,005,640	Holland (500), Brit. W. Indies (71), Canada (64).	9,118	1,171,904	Holland (536), Canada (331).
Artificial silk piece-goods	Sq. yds.	1,323,451	202,315	U.K. (112), France (24)	2,793,264	1,957,774	U.K. (1,314), Italy (499)	3,234,495	2,072,475	U.K. (1,233), Italy (501), Japan (276).
Meat	Tons	1,064	247,262	Argentina (102), U.S.A. (48), U.K. (39), Canada (38).	1,174	906,252	Canada (486), Australia (342), U.S.A. (123).	1,024	861,960	Australia (383), Canada (283), New Zealand (109).
Butter and Margarine	Tons	567	246,339	Eire (113), U.K. (37), New Zealand (28).	574	736,190	Australia (622), U.K. (113)	521	732,532	Australia (629), U.K. (103).
Medicines	—	—	179,562	U.K. (68), U.S.A. (38), Canada (28).	—	592,662	U.K. (320), Canada (125), U.S.A. (115).	—	666,477	U.K. (382), Canada (157), U.S.A. (92).
Malt Liquors	Gallons	181,606	177,002	U.K. (144), Holland (22)	223,376	523,522	U.K. (288), Holland (228)	218,914	527,724	U.K. (338), Holland (185).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	*Quantity*	1938 *Value* $	*Main Destinations* $000*s*	*Quantity*	1949 *Value* $	*Main Destinations* $000*s*	*Quantity*	1950 *Value* $	*Main Destinations* $000*s*
Sugar	Tons	183,478	7,574,412	Canada (5,147), U.K. (2,420)	173,818	21,054,561	Canada (11,871), U.K. (9,183)	173,272	23,137,999	Canada (13,992), U.K. (9,146).
Bauxite	Tons	376,368	2,020,275	Canada (1,458), U.S.A. (415), U.K. (141).	1,757,650	12,009,356	Canada (10,120), U.S.A. (1,426), U.K. (307).	1,583,417	13,832,442	Canada (11,833), U.S.A. (1,606), U.K. (175).
Rum	Proof gallons	1,069,968	458,334	U.K. (351), Canada (54) ..	3,683,308	4,758,788	U.K. (3,826), Canada (651)..	2,656,037	3,597,112	U.K. (2,537), Canada (972).
Rice	Tons	12,911	578,477	Brit. W. Indies (1,428), French W. Indies (113).	26,105	3,097,774	Brit. W. Indies (3,097) ..	29,066	3,962,041	Brit. W. Indies (3,947).
Diamonds	Carats	33,509	377,132	Belgium (233), U.K. (113) ..	34,375	1,189,184	U.K. (1,149)	37,034	1,363,377	U.K. (1,277).
Timber (round and hewn and sawn)	Cubic feet	439,165	249,115	Holland (88), U.K. (71), Brit. W. Indies (50).	596,297	1,023,491	U.K. (553)	651,007	1,203,236	U.K. (499), U.S.A. (260), Holland (179), Brit. W. Indies (178).
Gold	Ounces	39,728	1,030,778	U.K. (1,002)	16,331	622,225	U.S.A. (622)	11,420	531,302	U.S.A. (510).
Balata	Lb.	485,394	163,721	U.K. (163)	710,653	597,024	U.K. (530), U.S.A. (65) ..	682,747	585,734	U.K. (531).
Molasses	Gallons	5,892,004	302,091	Canada (198), U.K. (87) ..	4,101,889	434,883	U.K. (333), Canada (112) ..	5,870,883	647,208	U.K. (273), Canada (177), Sweden (128).

Digitized by Google

The movements of the balance of visible trade have been as follows in recent years :—

BALANCE OF TRADE

		$			$
1937	+	1,872,140	1944	+	1,930,465
1938	+	2,512,131	1945	+	372,778
1939	+	3,733,450	1946	+	174,051
1940	+	858,455	1947	−	5,792,799
1941	+	2,150,221	1948	−	11,253,241
1942	+	943,855	1949	−	5,839,677
1943	−	1,478,541	1950	−	5,586,562

(Surplus of exports (+) : surplus of imports (−). Parcel post exports have been omitted.)

The main invisible items in the foreign balance are, on the outgoing side, interest payments on government loans raised abroad ; profits due to companies mainly or wholly owned by persons outside the Colony, and payments for services such as insurance. On the incoming side, the main items are loans or grants received from abroad by the Colony Government, and investment of funds obtained from outside the Colony, in general by the foreign-owned companies operating within it. In pre-war days, it was usual for the out-going invisible items to exceed those on the incoming side, and this was reflected in a surplus of exports ; but since the war heavy investment in development and welfare projects, for which United Kingdom funds have been made available, and re-equipment and expansion by private enterprises in the Colony, in part made possible by accumulation of funds abroad from exports at an earlier date, and in part by the supply of fresh foreign investment, have brought about import surpluses.

Changes in the direction of trade, before and after the war, have been as follows :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

Sources of imports (total imports, not including parcel post)	1938 Per cent	1946 Per cent	1947 Per cent	1948 Per cent	1949 Per cent	1950 Per cent
United Kingdom	50	32	27	36	48	47
Canada	15	36	33	24	15	13
Other British countries	12	9	8	13	14	17
U.S.A.	11	18	26	21	15	12
Other countries	12	5	6	6	8	11

Destinations of exports (domestic exports, not including parcel post)	1938 Per cent	1946 Per cent	1947 Per cent	1948 Per cent	1949 Per cent	1950 Per cent
United Kingdom	34	37	45	39	36	29
Canada	53	42	37	46	48	54
Other British countries	5	13	10	9	10	11
U.S.A.	4	6	6	5	5	5
Other countries	4	2	2	1	1	1

Since the war years, there has been control over imports, operating through a licensing system ; the restrictions placed on imports have varied at different periods in accordance with the general trading position of the sterling area. From 1948 import policy has been in conformity with the recommendations of the Conference of Supply Officers held at Barbados in February of that year, that in order to support the common efforts of the sterling area to reduce the dollar deficit, dollar imports should be kept to a minimum. A list of goods was issued, the importation of which was prohibited, except from the United Kingdom and the Colonies and countries damaged by the war ; imports from hard currency areas were to be restricted to supplies of goods which were unobtainable from either of these sources, and were essential either for the maintenance of a reasonable standard of consumption or for the supply, rehabilitation and expansion of the Colony's industries, preference being given to the expansion of dollar-earning or dollar-saving industries—for example, sugar, rum, rice, timber, gold, bauxite. In the latter half of 1948, an Open General Licence was issued for all imports from the United Kingdom and the Colonies, except for a few commodities still in short supply.

As can be seen from the table of sources of imports, the proportion of imports from hard currency sources has diminished considerably in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950. In particular, in the latter years improved conditions of supply made it possible for a larger proportion of imports to be obtained from soft currency sources. Since the revaluation of sterling in 1949, further efforts have been made to reduce imports from dollar sources.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

A Development Committee, to study and report on proposals for the Colony's Ten-Year Plan, was appointed in September, 1946, with the Economic Adviser to the Colony as chairman, and unofficial members of the Legislative Council, and the Commissioner of Local Government, among the other representatives. This Main Committee supervised and co-ordinated the work of 11 sub-committees, each of which could co-opt members from outside the Legislative Council ; the sub-committees made plans for the development of Health Services, Education, Social Services, Communications, Drainage, Irrigation and Sea Defence, Geology and Mines, Agriculture and Fisheries, Forests, Town Planning and Urban Housing, Trade and Industrial Development, and Rural Housing and Land Settlement.

The report of the Main Committee, completed at the end of 1947, was approved by the British Guiana Legislative Council in March, 1948, and sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the end of 1948. It proposed the expenditure of approximately $26,000,000 on the development projects and social services in the period 1947–56, of which about $20,000,000 was to be spent in the first five years, up to 1951 ; the proposals made for the second five-year period were tentative and not comprehensive. About $9,000,000 of the proposed expenditure was to complete schemes already in hand.

The following table shows the proposals made for expenditure under various heads, and also the amounts actually spent up to the end of 1950 (from 1st April, 1946) :—

Digitized by Google

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

	Expenditure proposed: 1947–51			*Actual Capital expenditure to end of 1950*	*Expenditure proposed: 1951–6*	
	Capital	*Per cent. of total*	*Recurrent per annum*		*Capital*	*Recurrent per annum*
	$		$	$	$	$
Health	523,705	2·6	174,378	626,402	259,000	17,400
Education	1,849,122	9·1	264,800	1,253,900	714,000	92,000
Other social services (including General Co-operative Department)	68,814	0·3	86,320	138,666	117,000	47,400
Communications	3,853,430	19·0	—	1,150,560	—	200,000–500,000
Drainage and Irrigation	5,358,786	26·4	80,000	5,945,000	5,000,000	—
Geology and Mines	72,400	0·4	56,920	98,300	—	—
Agriculture and Fisheries	1,846,306	9·1	76,608	710,423	—	—
	Net					
Forests	1,143,944	5·6	53,930	201,000	—	—
Town Planning, Urban Housing	3,332,844	16·4	36,760	843,654	—	—
Rural Housing, Land Settlement	1,549,401	7·6	113,680	1,605,802	—	—
Trade and Industrial Development	509,000	2·5	63,000	—	—	—
Interior Schemes	207,635	1·0	75,940	—	—	—
Total	$20,315,387	100·0	1,082,336	12,573,407	6,090,000	356,000–656,000

When these proposals were made the Development Committee estimated that available funds would amount to a total of $15,000,000, including the unappropriated balance, amounting to $3,750,000, of the Colony's $12,000,000 grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945; the remaining funds were to be provided from the Colony's General Revenue Surplus (to the extent of $3,250,000), the unexpended balance ($750,000) of a Colony loan raised in 1945, and a proposed new Colony loan of $10,000,000. This total of $15,000,000 was less than the $16,500,000 estimated to be required for *new* schemes in the Plan—which incorporated a number of projects already agreed upon and/or in process of being carried out, for which funds had already been allocated—but it was hoped that the additional resources would become available as and when they were required.

In 1950 a thorough review of the progress of the Plan and the financial resources available for its continuance was carried out. This showed that approximately $12,500,000 had been spent on schemes which were completed or in progress, and that funds still available amounted to $16,000,000, consisting of $3,000,000 out of the $12,000,000 Colonial Development and Welfare grant—$9,000,000 having been spent or allocated, $3,000,000 from the Colony's General Reserve Surplus, and $10,000,000 from the proposed loan (which was in fact raised during 1951). The allocation of these funds has not as yet been decided upon, and the cost of new schemes which have been mooted is considerably in excess of the resources available; in particular a comprehensive scheme for water control over the whole of the inhabited coastal plain, an area amounting to 1,089,000 acres, is estimated to cost $158,000,000 over 20 years, and $43,350,000 for the first instalment in the period 1952–6. It is also estimated that a further sum of about $3,000,000 is required for the rehabilitation of railways, steamers, and harbours, for which approximately $1,400,000 has already been provided. (These Transport and Harbours improvements were not included in the Ten-Year Plan, though their estimated cost was deducted from the assessment of available funds.) Further expenditure on housing amounting to approximately $3,500,000, has also been proposed. It will, therfore, be necessary to curtail many of these proposals until more resources are available.

In the original Ten-Year Plan, proposed expenditure on economic development amounted to 64 per cent., and that on social services to 36 per cent. of the total. The main schemes under the various heads were as follows:

Drainage and Irrigation

Six major schemes which had already been approved were incorporated in the programme put forward in the Plan; five of these schemes were to be completed in the first five years, together with one additional scheme, and the remaining one of the original schemes in the second five years, along with other main drainage projects. Under these schemes a large amount of additional land is to be provided, and productivity increased. Much of the proposed work has been carried out.

Communications

The main proposals were for the reconstruction of the roads from New Amsterdam to Crabwood Creek (on the Corentyne Coast), where much agricultural development is taking place, and from Georgetown to Atkinson Field Airport; the estimated cost of the former project, on which work has just begun, was $2·4 m. for the first five years, but it is now estimated that a further $4·4 m. will be required to complete it. The latter project, on which estimated expenditure for the first five years was $770,000, has been deferred. Expenditure amounting to $160,000 was proposed for the construction of air-strips in the interior, and a considerable amount of work has been carried out. It was also proposed to spend approximately $1 m. on road-making machinery, and about half this amount had been spent by the end of 1950.

Town Planning and Urban Housing

In the Ten-Year Plan, expenditure of $1·6 m. was proposed for the rebuilding of the centre of Georgetown which had been largely destroyed by a fire in 1945, together with $1 m. for house-building, and $460,000 for the provision of a pure water supply, also in Georgetown. Considerable progress has been made with the first and last mentioned of these schemes, but only one small housing scheme has been carried out, although the new Housing and Planning Authority has prepared plans for a number of others, the cost of which is estimated at approximately $6 m., about $1 m. of which should be recoverable by the sale of building plots.

Education

The Ten-Year Plan proposed expenditure of $700,000 on primary school buildings and $400,000 on a new boys' college, in the first five years; the boys' college has been completed, and considerable progress has been made with the rest of the school-building programme. It was also proposed that $130,000 should be spent on senior schools, and $125,000 on pre-vocational training; on account of changes in plans expenditure on these items has so far been comparatively small. Of the proposed expenditure of $125,000 on teachers' housing about half had been incurred at the of 1950. Work on a new Technical Institute is now in progress.

Digitized by Google

Agriculture and Fisheries

The main schemes in the original plan were for the establishment of a " pool " of machinery for hire to rice cultivators, estimated to cost $450,000, and for the spending of $250,000 on rice milling equipment. The machinery hire pool scheme is now in existence, and considerable expenditure has taken place on the purchase of milling equipment; further expenditure on the modernisation of rice mills is contemplated, following the visit of two American rice production experts in 1949, under the auspices of E.C.A. A livestock improvement scheme, for which $114,700 was allocated in the original plan, has been largely carried out, but the building of a fish market in Georgetown, for which $60,000 was allocated, has been postponed for further consideration. Part of an allocation of $75,000 in the original plan for developing sugar cane farming by small producers has been spent. Proposals for future expenditure are mainly on rice milling equipment, but there are also tentative proposals for more expenditure on livestock improvement, research, marketing and a variety of smaller projects.

Rural Housing and Land Settlement

In the original plan approximately $780,000 was allocated for land settlement schemes, and $770,000 for rural housing schemes (including housing on sugar estates, towards which a large contribution was also expected from the Sugar Industry Welfare Fund). Elsewhere, grants of one-third to one-half the cost of rural house-building are to be made from Government funds. So far approximately $1,000,000 has been spent on land settlement and about $115,000 on rural housing (excluding sugar estate housing).

The Sugar Welfare Fund amounted to $1,000,000 in 1950 and was growing at the rate of approximately $400,000 annually, so that large funds are available from this source; an allocation of $400,000 from Government funds has also been proposed for further expenditure on rural housing.

Forestry

In the original plan, $1,000,000 was allocated for the development of the Bartica triangle area, which contains the richest and most accessible forests. The exploitation of this area has, however, been taken over by the Colonial Development Corporation, which is proposing to spend $8–9,000,000, and the $1,000,000 allocation will require reconsideration. Apart from this, $85,000 has been spent, and annually recurring expenditure to the amount of $70,000 undertaken, on increased staff and equipment for the Forest Department; it is proposed to spend a further $60,000. Proposals in the original plan for assistance to small operators, to cost $75,000, have been carried out only to a small extent so far.

Health

Under the Ten-Year Plan, the greater part of proposed expenditure was on hospitals and health centres, for which $430,000 was allocated in the first five years and $215,000 in the second five years. In fact about $650,000 has already been spent; the expenditure has been largely concentrated on the improvement of the Public Hospital at Georgetown, and sanatorium and mental hospital extension, and a number of other schemes contained in the Ten-Year Plan have been postponed. About $1,000,000 has been spent on the anti-malarial campaign, but only a proportion of this expenditure was included in the Ten-Year Plan. Funds still required for priority schemes—mainly hospital extensions—are estimated at $1,000,000.

Trade and Industrial Development

The main scheme in the Ten-Year Plan, for the spending of $500,000 on the setting up of a Development Corporation to carry out research and investigation, and to give assistance to new industries or agricultural development, has not been proceeded with as yet, though a considerable amount of new development is taking place.

Interior

Plans for the development of the interior have been revised, and it is now proposed that the original allocation of $55,000 for the establishment of a livestock station, abattoir, and tannery at Lethem in the Rupununi savannahs should be increased to $110,880, and that $250,050 should be spent on cattle investigations at an agricultural station in the interior. Expenditure amounting to $159,864 is proposed on examination of the possibilities of growing cocoa in a number of areas, including the North-West District and the neighbourhood of Bartica, and $8,016 is to be spent on crop investigations in the Kanaku Mountains. It is expected that the cost of all these schemes will be met from the Colonial Development and Welfare central funds, outside the British Guiana allocation, which have been specially earmarked for developments in connection with the proposals of the Evans Commission for outside settlement in British Guiana.

Geology and Mines

The main projects are for geological and topographical surveys, and a fair amount of preliminary work has been done. The cost is now being borne almost entirely by an allocation from Colonial Development and Welfare central funds, and the Colony contribution is small. About $100,000 has been spent so far.

Other Social Services

In the Ten-Year Plan, the extension of the Social Welfare Organisation (including the Co-operative Department), the provision of buildings for rural recreation, and the erection of a school for delinquent girls were the main schemes; they have been largely carried out, and no new schemes of importance have been proposed.

Other Development

Plans are under consideration for the future organisation and rehabilitation of the Colony's telecommunications system, which at the time that the Ten-Year Plan was drawn up was estimated to cost $2,250,000.

The Colonial Development Corporation has invested nearly $1 m. in British Guiana Consolidated Goldfields Limited, to assist the company in dredging operations. It is also undertaking forestry development in the Bartica triangle area; a new company, British Guiana Timbers Limited has been formed, with a share capital of $8·4 m. subscribed by the Corporation.

There has been considerable private expenditure on development in the Colony, though precise figures are not available. More than $3m. has been spent since the war by mining companies prospecting for gold, and the reconditioning and rehabilitation of the sugar factories has been proceeding, and has been facilitated by the Rehabilitation Fund established in 1947 from which up to $2 m. had been spent by the end of 1950. The Demerara Bauxite Company is planning expansion of its activities, involving expenditure of not less than $1·5 m. on new capital equipment, and a new company, Plantation Bauxite Limited, which is jointly owned by the Demerara Bauxite Company Limited and the British and Colonial Bauxite Company Limited, has been formed to take up undeveloped bauxite mining leases on the West Bank of the Demerara River.

Digitized by Google

BRITISH HONDURAS

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

British Honduras is situated on the East coast of Central America, facing the Caribbean Sea, and is bounded on the landward side by the Republics of Mexico and Guatemala. The Colony lies between latitude 16° and 18° 30′ N. and longitude 87° 30′ and 89° 15′ W. Its total area is 8,867 square miles including approximately 200 square miles for the Cays (small islands). The northern half of the Colony and the coastal plain of some 20 miles wide is under 200 feet in height; the central mountain area in the south rises to 3,000 feet and is known as the Maya Mountains.

The climate generally is hot and damp, but not unhealthy. The temperature ranges from 59° to 92° F.; the mean monthly average is 79° F. The seasonal variation is 12° in Belize, 16° in the north, and 15° in the south. The diurnal variation is 6° in Belize, and 8° in the north and south.

The annual rainfall is light in the northern and western districts and heavy in the southern districts. The mean annual rainfall for the last five years was 65″ in Belize, 45″ in the north, and 186″ in the south. March, April and May constitute the dry season. The wet season starts in early June and extends to November, with a short dry spell in August. The mean relative humidity is 79 per cent. and the prevailing wind direction is East.

North of Belize, the coastal waters are shallow with a depth of six feet or so. South of Belize, the seas are deep with good channels for steamers. The coast is protected by a triple line of Cays and reefs, which provides the Colony with a calm stretch of water inshore.

There are seventeen principal rivers, of which two flow north to the Chetumal Bay, and the remainder east. The two flowing north, Rio Hondo and New River, are navigable for some seventy miles for boats drawing about four feet. Of those flowing east, the Sarstoon, Deep, Moho Rio Grande, Sittee, Sibun, and Belize Rivers are navigable by boats up to four feet draught, but only the Sibun and Belize Rivers are navigable for any distance and, owing to rapids and runs, only by shallow draught boats. The Belize River is navigated by shallow draught tunnel boats as far as Cayo, some 121 miles from the mouth. All the rivers are subject to high floods during the wet season.

The Colony is divided, for administrative purposes, into five districts: Belize, Cayo, Northern District, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The capital city, Belize, is situated at the Delta of the Belize River.

Population

The estimated population at the end of 1950 was 66,892 persons, comprising 28,722 males and 30,498 females. At the census of 1946 the population was 59,220 persons, of whom 28,722 were males and 30,498 were females. The population was distributed geographically as follows:—

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION: 1946 CENSUS

District	*Area (square miles)*	*Population (persons)*			*Population Density (persons per square mile)*
		Urban (1)	*Rural* (2)	*Total*	
Belize ..	1,623	21,886	4,895	26,781	16·5
Northern ..	2,548	3,585	8,708	12,293	4·8
Cayo ..	1,731	2,812	4,558	7,370	4·3
Stann Creek	840	3,414	2,959	6,373	7·6
Toledo ..	2,125	1,375	5,028	6,403	3·0
Total ..	8,867	33,072	26,148	59,220	6·7

Notes—

(1) The city of Belize, with a population of 21,886 at the date of the census, is by far the largest urban centre. The populations of the smaller towns were: Stann Creek, 3,414; Corozal, 2,190; Cayo, 1,548; Orange Walk, 1,395; Punta Gorda, 1,375; Benque Viejo, 1,264.

(2) The rural population shown includes that of the Cays; these had an area of approximately 160 square miles, and an enumerated population of 955.

The table reveals a remarkably high degree of urbanisation and relatively small numbers living in rural areas.

The racial composition of the population at the time of the census was as follows:

RACIAL COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION, 1946

Racial Group	*Persons*	*Proportion of Population*
		Per cent.
Creole	22,693	38·3
Mixed or Coloured	18,360	31·0
Aboriginal Indian	10,030	16·9
Carib	4,112	6·9
European	2,329	3·9
East Indian	1,366	2·3
Syrian	128	0·2
Chinese	50	0·1
Not Stated	152	0·3
Total	59,220	100·0

Over half of the Creole population live in the city of Belize and over half of the population of Belize belong to this racial group. The mixed or coloured group is also concentrated mainly in Belize and Stann Creek. The aboriginal Indians (mainly Mayas) live largely in the rural areas, while the Caribs (descendants of immigrants from St. Vincent) are strongly concentrated in the Stann Creek area. The Europeans live mainly in Belize, and the East Indians in rural areas, mainly in Central Toledo and Corozal. Comparison of the 1931 and 1946 census figures shows an overall increase of 15,339 in this period or an average growth of 0·96 per cent. per annum. A striking feature of this period was the growth of Belize, the population of which increased by 31·2 per cent. (or 1·83 per cent. per annum). The towns generally showed greater increases than the rural areas, mainly owing to migration from the latter.

The principal vital statistics for the territory as a whole, for the immediate pre-war and post-war years are shown in the following table:

VITAL STATISTICS, 1936–50

Year	*Birth Rate*(1)	*Death Rate*(1)	*Infant Mortality Rate*(2)
1936	33·5	22·4	152·7
1937	32·9	18·5	123·1
1938	35·5	20·3	125·2
1946	34·3	16·9	105
1947	40·2	17·5	120·1
1948	39·68	13·63	105·6
1949	38·90	13·41	104·8
1950	39·73	12·63	106·5

Notes—

(1) Per 1,000 of the population.
(2) Per 1,000 live births.

The recorded excess of births over deaths in the period 1931–46, amounted to 12,191 persons, whereas the recorded intercensal increase was 7,873. This comparison points to a loss by migration of some 4,300 persons, of

Digitized by Google

whom about 2,700 were males and 1,600 were females. Some of the loss was probably temporary, as 238 males were known to be absent temporarily in Guatemala at the census date and 374 were employed on contract in the United States of America, while many who had left the territory in war-time for service in the armed forces or as forest workers in the United Kingdom had not yet returned in 1946.

The Colony's total labour force at the time of the 1946 census was 20,335 persons (16,530 males, 3,805 females) ; of these 202 were young persons awaiting their first employment, so that the total of persons gainfully occupied was 20,133, composed as follows :

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION, 1946 CENSUS

Industrial Group	*Males*	*Females*	*Persons*	*Persons as a Proportion of Total*
				Per cent.
Agriculture	5,287	578	5,865	29·13
Quarrying and Mining	7	—	7	0·04
Fishing and Hunting ..	332	1	333	1·66
Forestry	2,036	4	2,040	10·13
Construction	1,076	2	1,078	5·35
Manufacture and Repair	2,000	551	2,551	12·67
Transport and Communications ..	884	22	906	4·50
Trade and Finance ..	1,286	430	1,716	8·52
Professional Services ..	352	523	875	4·35
Public Services ..	1,312	45	1,357	6·74
Personal Services ..	209	559	768	3·81
Domestic Service ..	117	994	1,111	5·52
Other	1,488	38	1,526	7·58
Total	16,386	3,747	20,133	100·00

At the time of the census there were 1,151 persons or 5·66 per cent. (males 6·12, females 3·68 per cent.) of the total labour force unemployed ; if young persons seeking their first job are excluded, the figures are reduced to 949 or 4·71 per cent. of the gainfully occupied labour force (males 5·29, females 2·2 per cent.).

Social Amenities

Education

Education is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 14. The estimated compulsory-school-age population in 1950 was some 14,000, and the total school enrolment, including children of the ages at which attendance is voluntary, amounted to nearly 13,500. Expenditure in 1950 in the grant-aided primary schools was $28·33 (£7 1s. 8d.) per child in average attendance.

The system of primary education is that of subsidised denominational schools controlled by a Board of Education. There are 78 primary schools, three of which are conducted entirely by the Government. There are also about 18 unaided primary schools, private and denominational. In the grant-aided primary schools in 1950 there were 244 teachers and 144 pupil-teachers.

Secondary education is entirely in the hands of the denominations, but the Government assists by providing scholarships for pupils from primary schools, each scholarship being tenable for four years, and for a fifth year with the approval of the Board of Education. There are five secondary schools, three of which are for boys ; three have preparatory departments. Teachers are largely recruited from abroad. The age-range of pupils receiving secondary education proper is 11 to 18. The schools are all situated in Belize.

A Technical High School has recently been opened in Belize. Domestic Science is taught at one centre in Belize and handicrafts at two schools in Belize and one in Stann Creek. There is also in Belize a Handicraft centre for the training of adults, conducted by the Social Welfare Department.

There is no provision for higher education in the Colony. The Government awards a scholarship biennially on the result of the London Matriculation examination, tenable at any University in the Empire. Scholarships have also been awarded under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. The Jesuit Mission gives scholarships to Colleges and Adult Education classes are conducted by Roman Catholic authorities. Arrangements have been made for the appointment of a Resident Tutor by the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies.

Teachers are trained in the Colony by the pupil-teacher system, and are recruited from the secondary schools. Of the total number of qualified teachers in 1950, 198 were natives of the Colony and 85 were from abroad.

Health

In general the Colony is comparatively healthy ; the variety of tropical diseases encountered is small. The diseases of significance are malaria, the intestinal diseases, ankylostomiasis, pulmonary tuberculosis, and diseases due to nutritional deficiencies.

Malaria is widespread, but most prevalent in the moister southern districts. Control measures taken include spraying with D.D.T. and larvicides, and the free distribution of Paludrine in certain schools.

The generally primitive sanitary facilities employed even in the towns and in the capital are, together with poor and often unprotected water supplies, most probably the chief factor contributing to a fairly high incidence (after malaria) of intestinal diseases, including dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis. Typhoid and paratyphoid fever are endemic, with an annual peak during the rainy season ; in the treatment of typhoid fever chloromycetin has proved of great value. Outbreaks of these diseases in epidemic form are avoided only by constant vigilance on the part of the medical authorities.

The campaign for improvement of rural sanitation and water supplies is expected to bring about an improvement in the incidence of such diseases as typhoid and hookworm. The dissemination of health and hygiene knowledge by means of lectures and pamphlets is also being pursued. A number of huts are provided for isolation and treatment of tuberculous persons.

Cases of serious nutritional deficiency are seldom seen but a large section of the population, especially village children of school age, lives in a state of chronic undernutrition due to a diet lacking in the necessary protein and fats, and vitamins of the B complex. Efforts are being made to provide protective foods—milk, yeast foods, and cod liver oil—where necessary.

Housing

The general building material throughout British Honduras is local pine, with galvanised corrugated iron for roofing. The Indians build of native round wood for framing, with palmetto pole and mud walls, and roofs of local palm-leaf thatch.

In Belize houses are usually built on wooden piles, some seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often swampy or flooded. The filling in of plots with pipeshank from the sea-bed is regularly undertaken by individuals or by Government, and Government reclamation schemes have been carried out from time to time. Owner-occupation is comparatively rare.

Housing conditions generally are poor, and there is a marked shortage of dwelling accommodation, the shortage being most acute in Belize. A housing scheme has been completed in recent post-war years in Belize, whereby 33 houses were to be erected and 22 lots leased for private building with Local Authority assistance. There are also, in Belize, seven Government houses rented to families of the poorer working class.

There are no building societies in the Colony, and apart from the Government building schemes, all construction is by private enterprise.

Social Security

There is no unemployment insurance or Old Age Pension scheme in force in the Colony. Public Assistance is administered by the Outdoor Relief Committee, a

Digitized by Google

Government-appointed body of which the Social Welfare Officer is the chairman. The total cost of relief in 1950 was $44,717.

The Gann Rest House, a night shelter for homeless men, is operated by the Salvation Army, with the aid of grants from Government and from the Public Assistance Board. The shelter accommodated some 28 men nightly in 1950.

There are five Friendly Societies but their total membership is only around 200. There is no Post Office Savings Bank, but special stamps are sold, for the purpose of encouraging savings, which can be redeemed and deposited in the Government Savings Bank.

Political Structure

The administration and government of the Colony devolve upon the Governor and an Executive Council, constituted by Royal Instructions given in 1936 and 1945, which provide for three *ex-officio* members and such persons as the Governor may appoint in accordance with the instructions. The Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary are the *ex-officio* members and there are four other appointees. Appointments are for a period of three years.

The Legislative Council, in its present form, is constituted by the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance of 1935 together with the amendment Ordinance of 1945 ; it comprises the Governor as President, three ex-*officio* members (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General), ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions, and six are elected from five constituencies.

All questions are decided by a majority of the votes given, the Governor having an original, and also a casting vote. The Governor also has reserve powers, which give him the authority to declare his assent to any bill, resolution or vote, which he considers necessary in the interests of public order or good government, or to secure detailed control of the finances of the Colony. In making such a declaration, the Governor is required to inform the Council of his reasons and to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice and a Magistrate for the City of Belize. In the out-districts judicial functions are exercised by the District Commissioners. In addition, two or more Justices of the Peace may exercise the judicial functions of a District Commissioner. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice, appointed by Letters Patent under the Public Seal of the Colony by the Governor.

The Colony is divided into five districts for administrative purposes. The Commissioner for each district, excepting Belize, exercises the prescribed judicial functions and acts at the same time as Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector of Customs and District Postmaster. The principal departments of administration in the Colony are shown in the table on page 95.

The municipal affairs of the town of Belize (including St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and San Pedro, Ambergris Caye) are administered by the Belize City Council. Elections are held every three years. The Governor has power at any time to dissolve the Council by proclamation. The Council has power to make By-Laws and Regulations, all such By-Laws and Regulations being subject to the approval of the Governor in Council.

Town Boards are constituted under the District Town Boards Ordinance of 1938, which gives power to the Governor in Council to add to, or delete from, the list of towns to which the Ordinance applies. Boards may be either wholly nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected : nominated members are appointed by the Governor. Boards may establish markets, slaughterhouses, baths and washhouses, may provide for public lighting, the naming and numbering of its streets, and carry on such other duties as the Governor orders by notice in the Gazette.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The Company Law of the Colony (Cap. 203 of the Consolidated Laws of the Colony, 1924), provides in detail for the formation, registration, and winding up of companies, public or private, with unlimited or limited liability, limited by share or by guarantee. Companies registered outside but having a place of business within the Colony, are required to file certain particulars with the Registrar of Companies within one month.

Companies are subject to Company Tax, under the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947, at the flat rate of 35 per cent. Certain allowances may be made, however, in favour of undertakings engaged in development specially beneficial to the Colony. Legislation to encourage development includes the Income Tax (Concessions for Development Rules), 1949, the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1949, and the Customs Duties (Concessions for Development) Regulations, 1949. Under the Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947, and the Income Tax (Concessions for Development Rules), 1949, capital expenditure on approved development undertakings may be written off in 10–15 years. Under the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1949, and the Customs Duties Concessions for Development Regulations, 1949, the original equipment for improved development undertakings may be imported free.

Licence fees are payable by companies engaging in banking or insurance business within the Colony.

Trade Tariffs

Import duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis (on c.i.f. value), with specific duties on certain items including wines, spirits, principal foodstuffs, tobacco and certain manufactured goods. The present general *ad valorem* rates are 15 per cent. and 27½ per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs respectively. (Equipment and machinery for use in forestry and agriculture and for certain approved development industries —see above—are admitted free). There is a 30 per cent. levy on the General Tariff and 15 per cent. on the Preferential in the case of certain goods, including cutlery, plated goods and jams. An entry tax of one per cent. on c.i.f. value is charged on all goods imported for home consumption.

Export duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs, mahogany, cedar and pine lumber, chicle, coconuts, logwood and fish. (Ordinances Nos. 11, 12 and 13 of 1945 and Ordinance No. 2 of 1947.)

Rates of export duties are as follows :—

Mahogany, cedar, and pine logs	If grown in the Colony, $4·00 per 1,000 su. ft.	If grown outside the Colony, $2·00 per 1,000 su. ft.
Mahogany, cedar, and pine lumber	If sawn or dressed in a local sawmill into planks, boards, scantlings, baulks or flitches, $2·00 per 1,000 su. ft.	If grown outside the Colony, $2·00 per su. ft.
Chicle	If produce of the Colony, 4 cents per lb.	If produce of some other country, one cent per lb.
Logwood ..	50 cents a ton.	
Coconuts ..	$3·00 for every thousand coconuts whether the produce of this Colony or of some other country.	
Fish	The export duty on fish (S. R. & O. No. 54 of 1948) came into force on 24th September, 1948. The rates are as follows:— (*a*) Crawfish (commonly known as Crayfish), Rock Lobster and Shell Fish—one and one-half cents a lb. on gross tail weight. (*b*) Whole Crayfish—half cent a lb. on gross weight. (*c*) On other fish whether fresh, salted or smoked—one cent a lb. on gross weight.	

Digitized by Google

Before any goods of any description are allowed to be exported to any country, a " licence to export " must first be obtained from the Collector of Customs. Early in 1950, Open General Licence was extended to all goods imported from the sterling area and certain other countries. O.G.L., however, may be suspended in the case of certain scheduled goods.

Labour

Labour legislation in force provides for :—

(*a*) the regulation of the relations between employers and workers ;
(*b*) the registration, inspection and licensing of factories ;
(*c*) a system of workmen's compensation for injuries ;
(*d*) the formation and registration of trade unions ;
(*e*) the regulation of the conditions of employment of women and children, and the prohibition of the employment of children of school age ;
(*f*) the fixing of a minimum wage in any industry ;
(*g*) the settlement of trade disputes by arbitration and the appointment of Boards of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of employment of any particular group of workers ;
(*h*) the regulation of the hours of work of shop assistants ;
(*i*) the settlement of disputes between master and apprentice ;
(*j*) the punishment of frauds and other offences by outworkers ;
(*k*) the recruiting of workers.

Land Tenure

Of the 5·6 m. acres of land in British Honduras, 2·5 m. acres have been alienated in perpetuity and much of the remaining 3·1 m. acres of Crown land is inaccessible hill country covered with high rain forest. No large resettlement areas exist. The Crown land lies for the most part in the southern part of the Colony.

All Crown lands are vested in the State, as are the oil and in certain cases the mineral rights. A large part of the land of the Colony had become alienated by the middle of the last century, mostly in very large estates, the land having been granted on a scale suitable for timber exploitation with access to navigable rivers.

The greater part of the alienated land is under freehold ownership, the original Crown grants conferring unconditional freehold title. Some private land has reverted to the Crown in lieu of payment of land tax. In the 15 years prior to 1947, 365,812 acres had reverted in this way. The procedure now followed in alienating Crown lands is that first a " location " ticket is granted, giving the tenant no rights to the land beyond tenancy-at-will and laying down certain conditions of purchase. These include the obligation to cultivate the land within five years, planting at least half of it in permanent crops and the payment of purchase money in ten half-yearly instalments. When these conditions have been fulfilled a Crown grant is issued. No large areas are sold in this way, the acreage per smallholder ranging from 5–100 acres. There are no native rights and immigrants may purchase land in the normal way by application for a location ticket.

Except for two large leaseholds, no Crown land is now leased other than a few small parcels in areas not served by a road. These are only leased because of the poverty of the settlers in that area. There are a number of Indian reserves in the south of the Colony ; every able-bodied Indian is required to pay an occupation fee of $5·00 per annum, and $1·00 for a house plot. He may then cultivate what area he wishes, amounting in practice to about five acres per annum. The acquisition of land is governed by the following ordinances :—

The Crown Lands Ordinance (Chapter 88 of Consolidated Laws, 1924) of 1886 vesting ownership of all unalienated land in the Crown.

The Compulsory Land Purchase Ordinance (Chapter 89) of 1882 authorising the Governor-in-Council to acquire private land by compulsory purchase if required for public purposes.

The Lands Acquisition Ordinance (Chapter 90) of 1894 enabling authorised undertakings to acquire lands compulsorily and prescribing procedure for fixing compensation.

The Land Acquisition Ordinance (No. 7 of 1947) empowering the Governor-in-Council to acquire by compulsory purchase land he may declare necessary for a public purpose, and prescribing the procedure for compensation. (Such a declaration shall be conclusive evidence that the land to which it relates is required for a public purpose.) The basis of valuation for compensation is the market value, twelve months prior to the declaration, of the land in its state at the time of acquisition.

The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10 of 1948) extends the power of compulsory purchase to authorised promoters, i.e., a corporation, company or person.

Transport and Communications

Internal Transport

Prior to 1935 there were only 35 miles of " all-weather " roads in the Colony. In 1950 there were 241 miles of main roads and another 71 miles of feeder roads suitable for motor-traffic, with 45 miles under construction. There are also some 48 miles of cart roads and 154 miles of Government-maintained bush trails. Belize is linked by all-weather roads with Corozal and the Mexican frontier in the north, and with Cayo and the Guatemalan frontier in the west. In spite of these improvements, however, there is still no communication between the north, Belize and Cayo on the one hand, and Stann Creek and Toledo districts in the south on the other, except by sea. A start has been made on the building of a road to link the Stann Creek–Middlesex road and the Cayo–Belize road at Orange Walk and so provide road access from the areas of greatest rainfall and agricultural possibilities in the south to the centres in the north, as part of the Colony's Development Plan. It is hoped that this programme will open up the country and make accessible land which can be used for agricultural production. Road construction in British Honduras, however, is a difficult and costly process owing to the difficulty of the terrain.

There are no railways in the Colony.

Motor and sailing vessels are used for coastal transport. Much of the internal transport of the Colony is done by river although this is decreasing as feeder roads are built.

External Transport

The principal harbour of the Colony is Belize and there are smaller harbours at Punta Gorda and Stann Creek in the south and at Corozal in the north.

The four steamship lines running services to the Colony are the United Fruit Co., from New Orleans, T. J. Harrison, Ltd., from London and Liverpool, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., from Europe and the Cayman Island Shipping Co., from Jamaica, of which only the last carries passengers. Small schooners ply between Belize and Tampa, Florida.

Scheduled international air services are provided by the British West Indian Airways to Jamaica, by TAMSA airlines to Mexico, by SAHSA to the Republic of Honduras and by TACA to Honduras and New Orleans. Caribbean International Airways operate a service to Grand Cayman and Florida.

The Belize airport (Stanley Field) is owned and operated by the Government, and is classified as a class D airport according to specifications ; it is equipped with air navigation aids. It provides customs, immigration and health facilities.

A privately owned strip suitable for medium aircraft is located at Mango Creek in the Stann Creek district, and there are grass strips at Corozal and El Cayo suitable for light aircraft.

Digitized by Google

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones

There were 32 post offices in the Colony in 1950, of which six transacted money order business. Postal services are maintained weekly and in some cases at more frequent intervals between the principal towns. External surface mails are despatched at weekly intervals and air mails six times weekly.

Telegraph business is transacted by the 72 telephone offices, operated by the Government Electricity and Telephones Department. Connected to Belize exchange are 424 direct and 112 extension telephone lines, while there are 69 public stations and 63 private subscribers on district telephone lines, 668 terminals altogether. The system is linked by a cable over the Rio Hondo to Chetumal in Mexico, with which telephone communication is thus available and through which telegraph business is transacted with other countries.

A wireless station provides additional communication between the capital and several of the main District towns, and with the outside world.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The soils of the territory comprise three main types : alluvial and detrital soils, calcareous sedentary soils and non-calcareous sedentary soils.

The alluvial and detrital soils are confined mainly to the coastal strips and to wash soils along the courses of the rivers. These soils are fairly deep and moderately well supplied with nutrients.

Of the non-calcareous sedentary soils the granitic soils have a fairly high organic matter content, a low carbon nitrogen ratio, and a high nutrient status. The other soils are generally poor in phosphate but fairly well supplied with potash ; the nutrient status of these soils varies rather widely ; the organic matter content is sometimes high.

The calcareous sedentary soils comprise on the one hand the Toledo limestone and calcareous sandstone soils, which are sepia coloured, heavy crumbly clays with fair organic matter and variable nutrient status, and on the other hand the Rio Dulce soils of which the limestone types are of fairly high nutrient status.

The economy of British Honduras has always been based upon its forest products, and little sustained effort has been devoted in the past to developing the territory's agricultural possibilities. In the last few years, however, expansion has taken place in the citrus and banana industries, and a beginning has been made with the introduction of cocoa and of ramie.

The area actually under cultivation in any one year is estimated to be some 65–70,000 acres, with a further 500,000 acres recently cultivated and in process of reverting to bush (" wamil "), the two together amounting to no more than some seven per cent. and the area actually under cultivation to less than one per cent. of the territory's land area as a whole.

Of the 5,865 persons (5,287 men, 578 women) returned at the census of 1946 as being primarily occupied in agriculture, the majority were Maya Indians or Caribs. The Caribs, arriving in small numbers in the early half of the 19th century, settled in groups in Stann Creek and Punta Gorda, where they cultivated maize, cassava, and beans for their own subsistence. Other immigrant groups engaging in agriculture include the Spanish Yucatecans who entered from the north about 1847 and settled near Corozal, growing maize and sugar-cane and raising pigs and poultry. In 1898 Maya and Kekchi Indians entered the San Antonio area of Toledo District in the south-west, to engage similarly in subsistence agriculture. In more recent years, several attempts at land settlement were made between 1932 and 1937, partly with the object of relieving urban congestion and unemployment ; these schemes had only limited success.

The agricultural system generally employed is one of shifting cultivation. Small forest areas (" milpas ") are cut over and burnt, and crops are then grown on the cleared area for one or two seasons. The long intervening fallow and the ash resulting from the burning succeed in maintaining a reasonable degree of soil fertility, and the heavy bush which grows rapidly in the fallow period prevents erosion of the soil. Where population growth begins to exert pressure on the available land, however, the progressive shortening of the fallow period leads to soil exhaustion, and where cultivation extends to steep hill slopes erosion results ; signs of both have been noted in certain localities.

With the exception of one or two plantations and farms, agricultural methods remain primitive in the extreme, the only implements being the ubiquitous machete or heavy knife, and a pointed stick used for sowing. Even among the sugar-cane growers who have fairly long experience of continuous cultivation of the one crop, the Evans Commission, reporting in 1948*, had heard of only one who used a plough. Apart from the burnt ash left by forest clearing, practically no fertilizers are used outside the citrus areas.

The Evans Commission considered that substantial opportunities offered for agricultural development. Detailed recommendations were made for sugar, cocoa, citrus and bananas and for dairying. Recommendations were also made, suggesting more detailed study preparatory to the further development of tobacco, abaca or manila hemp (grown experimentally with some success) groundnuts, sea island cotton, sisal and cassava.

Local Food Products

The greater part of the production of the system of shifting cultivation is consumed by its growers. The crops include maize, cassava, peas, beans, and vegetables.

Maize, which forms the staple diet of the Maya, is the principal food crop, and is grown throughout the territory both for human consumption and for feeding to pigs. The forest is usually cut and burnt in January or February, and the grain is planted in May. When the ears are ripe the tops of the plants are usually bent over, the corn thus drying out partially on the stem. Harvesting is done by hand, and is spread over several months beginning in October or November. The corn is stored on the cob and subsequently stripped by hand. Much damage is caused by weevils during storage, and the loss in the wetter areas of the south is particularly serious. Yields are from 800 to 1,400 lb. per acre.

Rice has been grown for a considerable time in British Honduras in small quantities and by the most primitive of methods. Small areas of swampy land, lying behind the cleared riverside strips and having poorer soils, were cut and burnt over and the paddy seed planted in fairly widely spaced holes. Little more was done, before harvesting by cutting each head of grain with some six inches of stalk attached, separately, with a penknife. The cultivation of rice by traditional methods, fairly important in past years, was undertaken in wartime by Government as an emergency measure to overcome the shortage of imported rice ; two government rice mills were operated, turning out rice of fair quality. Rice-growing has developed again to some extent in the post-war period.

Cassava is commonly sown by the Caribs of the south, mostly on the fairly heavy soils near the coast. It is used to make flour and bread and some starch is extracted. The crop is an exhausting one and with the primitive methods employed, yields are low, especially when the crop is grown continuously on the same land.

Peas, of various types, are usually grown alongside maize, especially the cowpea which attaches itself to the maize plant. Beans are a favourite item of diet and are grown everywhere ; nevertheless additional quantities are imported. The red kidney bean, grown from imported seed, is the most popular type, but the Maya of the north and west grow a climbing variety of small black bean.

* Cmd. 7533 of 1948.

Digitized by Google

Yams, sweet potatoes, and a considerable variety of vegetables are grown ; the latter including cabbage, cauliflower, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, cucumber, pumpkins and melons. The greater part of these vegetables, as of the food crops mentioned previously, is consumed on the farms ; nevertheless there is a surplus of maize, cassava, peas, beans and vegetables which is sold in local markets.

Cash Crops

Sugar is grown mainly on the limestone soils of Corozal in the north as a cash crop for local consumption ; the import of additional sugar is necessary except in the better years, when small quantities are exported. The crop is chiefly in the hands of small growers by whom it has been cultivated for nearly a century and a half. Some 2,000 acres are under sugar cane. Cultivation standards are low in general compared with other cane-producing countries, but are believed to be improving. Manures are not used and trash is burnt before reaping. Better cane varieties are being introduced. Present yields are approximately 13–16 tons per acre.

A refinery was established in 1937, by a locally-formed company, at Pembroke Hill. The factory has a capacity of 2–3,000 tons per season, i.e., rather more than the Colony's domestic needs ; output has averaged only some 1,200 tons per annum in the period to 1950. Some rum is produced.

Citrus. The cultivation of citrus (mainly grapefruit) is the only agricultural industry, with the partial exception of sugar, in which anything but the most modest standards or scale of operations have been attained. Plantings were begun after the collapse of the banana industry in the early part of this century, and the crop was firmly established by 1939. Some 2,000 acres or more is under citrus, mainly on the river alluvial soils where the crop is most successful ; the Stann Creek area is by far the most important centre of production. Plantations vary in size from 30 to 300 acres. Cultivation standards are moderately high ; pruning and spraying are carried out, and some artificial manuring is practised. The crop has not been seriously affected by diseases or pests, although scale insects, rust mite, scab, and melanose occur.

Citrus produce was formerly sold principally as fresh fruit, through the medium of a co-operative, the British Honduras Citrus Association, which was responsible for inspection, grading, packing, and all marketing operations. The market for grapefruit lay in the United Kingdom ; that for other citrus fruit was in Canada. A changeover to extraction and canning (mainly) of grapefruit juice was made under the special circumstances of wartime, but shipping difficulties led in 1943 to the closing down of the factory. In the post-war period the cultivation and processing of citrus—still very largely grapefruit—has expanded steadily, and the export side of the industry has been reorganised as British Honduras Fruit Enterprises Limited, engaged largely in supplying canned grapefruit juice, under contract, to the Ministry of Food, in the United Kingdom. Trade in fresh grapefruit has also been resumed, on a substantial scale, exports going almost entirely to the United Kingdom. The citrus industry benefits also from a contract for ten years from 1950, for the supply of " welfare " juices (concentrated orange juice) to the Ministry of Food. Exports have hitherto been restricted in part by the shortage of cold storage facilities.

Bananas and plantains have for many years been grown under the system of shifting cultivation, the crops receiving little attention and no manuring being done.

Exports of bananas, starting in 1880 with nearly 9,000 count bunches, rose by 1887 to nearly 236,000 count bunches and by 1916 to over 700,000. The main producing area was Stann Creek and neighbouring valleys ; the 23-mile Stann Creek Railway was built to transport the fruit to a pier at Commerce Bight where ships could lie alongside. Gros Michel was grown, a variety particularly susceptible to Panama disease which appeared in 1917 and spread rapidly, sending the industry into a decline from which it never recovered. Production on the plantations of the United Fruit Company fell from over 887,000 bunches in 1917 to less than 79,000 bunches in 1932. The plantation side of the industry was abandoned and the railway dismantled and converted into a road. Nevertheless peasant cultivation continued on new lands and the Colony's exports in 1937 reached a record figure of nearly 939,000 bunches. There followed a renewed decline, attributed mainly to leaf-spot disease, and exports in 1946 were only 85,000 bunches.

In the post-war period the cultivation of bananas has again developed steadily and quite rapidly, and has spread to new areas, the variety mainly employed being Lacatan, which is resistant to Panama disease though not to leaf-spot. A large banana project of post-war years is that operated by the British Honduras Fruit Company Limited in the Stann Creek area. This undertaking was begun in 1949 financed by the Colonial Development Corporation jointly with British Honduras Enterprises Limited. The aim is to devote not less than 4,000 acres to the crop of which 3,000 acres are on the Company's original 5,500-acre property in the Stann Creek area, the remaining 2,500 acres there having been found unsuitable for banana growing.

Coconuts are grown on the sandy soils of the mainland coastal areas and on the Cays, on a few large and many small properties. The area under the crop is estimated to be 4,000 acres or more. Standards of cultivation are low and plantations generally much neglected ; little is done beyond the occasional cutlassing of undergrowth, and no manures are applied. Both nuts and copra are produced ; all the copra is sun-dried, with little or no protection from rain during the drying process, and quality is not high. Production has hitherto been mainly for export to the United States of America but in recent years a larger proportion has been retained for local processing into oil and soap. Coconut scale (aspidiotus destructor) is a serious pest in some of the southern coastal plantations.

Tobacco is grown by the Maya Indians of the Northern District for their own consumption ; other production takes place on a small scale, the tobacco being used in Belize for blending with imported leaf in the manufacture of cigarettes. The Evans Commission (1948) found tobacco cultivation organised systematically on only one farm, which possessed modern flue-curing barns. The Commission was of the opinion that local conditions might be better suited to the cultivation of the types of tobacco producing " cigar fillers " and that there might well be room for some development of tobacco. There was a small trial shipment of export tobacco in 1949.

Cocoa is cultivated on a very small scale by the Maya Indians, for their own use. Commercial estate production flourished for a number of years prior to 1913 but was later gradually abandoned as export prices fell ; only one or two estates remain in partial production. There are, however, strong indications that parts of the Colony are particularly suited to this crop.

Livestock

There is little precise information concerning the livestock population of British Honduras, and estimates have varied widely. Numbers in 1950–51 were estimated at approximately : 10–17,000 cattle, 10–30,000 pigs, 1–2,000 sheep and goats, 3–4,000 horses, mules and donkeys, 40–70,000 poultry.

Cattle were employed primarily for hauling timber before the use of tractors became general. There has been little systematic breeding and types are very mixed ; herds are mainly descended from Aberdeen Angus, Hereford, Holstein, Jersey, Red Pool, and Zebu cattle imported from the United States, Jamaica, and Honduras, and crossed with local animals. Production is mainly of beef for the local market, but imports of meat, as well as of dairy products of all kinds, continue to be necessary.

Digitized by Google

The herds are maintained with a minimum of attention, on the natural pasturage, largely that which follows upon the burning and clearing of forest in the system of shifting cultivation. Little or no attempt is made to improve the pasturage or to provide hay or alternative concentrated feeding stuffs. There is much suffering, consequently, in the dry season and the heavy losses annually from starvation are considered greatly to exceed loss from disease. Fencing is inadequate and much damage is caused to growing crops ; segregation and selective breeding are not possible in these conditions and the quality of the stock tends to become progressively worse. The health of cattle is generally good and contagious diseases are rare ; on the other hand ticks are abundant and few farmers have sought to control them by dipping.

Existing pastures are capable of extension and improvement and there appears scope for development of cattle rearing to increase local supplies of meat, to substitute domestic dairy products for the present almost entirely imported supplies, and possibly also to produce a surplus for export. The distance of the better livestock areas from Belize and the sea, and poverty of transport facilities are among the main obstacles to expansion. The post-war road-building programme has already done something to remove this last obstacle and meat supplies coming into Belize have shown some improvement. A project of the Colonial Development Corporation for the establishment of a stock farm in the El Cayo district has not yet (1951) reached a stage where a firm estimate of prospects can be made. It is proposed to raise cattle (for beef and dairy products), sheep (for wool and mutton), pigs, poultry, and vegetables. Full development is expected to take some twelve years.

Pigs are kept by the Maya Indians and Caribs in large numbers. Unimproved but thrifty local breeds are the general rule, though Government with some success has attempted improvement by the introduction of Berkshire boars. The animals are left to graze freely, but usually receive in addition a daily ration of maize with waste bananas, cassava, coconuts, or other vegetable refuse. There is a ready demand for pigs and pig products in Belize and in the lumber camps which supply is scarcely adequate to meet. Some Spanish cultivators maintain pigs in permanent pens, feeding them on maize and vegetable refuse ; the thriving condition of these animals indicates the possibility of great improvement in pig rearing.

Poultry are kept throughout the Colony, and the Maya in particular breed good turkeys. The birds are fed on maize, coconut, and household scraps ; quality is generally good and is maintained in some degree by imports of birds of good breed from the United States of America. There is a large demand for poultry and eggs, both actual and potential, and hence scope for expansion of poultry rearing.

Horses and *mules* remain important as a form of human transport ; some two-thirds of the territory's equine population is estimate to be in the Cayo District.

Forestry

Throughout the period of nearly three centuries since its first settlement, the economic history of British Honduras has been primarily that of its major forest products : logwood, mahogany, chicle, cedar, rosewood and latterly pine. Since the end of the first world war, exports of forest products have represented on average, by value, some four-fifths of the territory's exports as a whole.

The total area of forest land in the Colony is 8,337 square miles or 94 per cent. of the total area. High rain forest, primary and secondary, covers 72 per cent. of the total area (advanced forest 52 per cent., intermediate forest 18 per cent., swamp forest 2 per cent.). Pine forest extends over 15 per cent. or more of the total area. The balance is comprised of mangrove forests (three per cent.), savannahs (three per cent.) and existing or recently abandoned cultivation (seven per cent.).

The exploitation of the territory's forest resources has gone on in an unsystematic manner, generally without regard for maintenance. Extraction has been selective, to the exclusion of secondary timbers, and has been accordingly more expensive. The exploitation of virgin forest, however, gave both the timber and the chicle industry large reserves of mature and over-mature trees to draw upon. Successive drawings in excess of the normal annual increment have been the basis of past prosperity, but have now virtually exhausted these reserves, so that a substantial diminution in the rate of exploitation appears inevitable. The need has been fully recognised to apply a forest policy ensuring systematic exploitation of all available types of timber, with provision for adequate replacement ; the problem which remains is to secure application of the policy throughout all the territory's principal forests. Except on the Crown lands, however, which form only a small proportion of the whole, it has not yet been possible, in the existing state of legislation, to give effect to a more enlightened policy, since the form in which forest tracts were disposed of gave complete rights to their owners in freehold.

An eight-year forest regeneration plan was put into effect immediately upon its adoption in mid-1948. Assisted by a grant of $200,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, the plan provides for the construction of 95 miles of dry-season road, to assist the work of fire patrols in pine forests and to open up blocks of hardwoods previously inaccessible. The plan also includes provision to ensure regeneration of stands of mahogany and pine.

Second only to mahogany in importance has been the sapodilla which yields *chicle*, the basis of chewing gum. The gum is extracted by " chicleros," who are individual contractors producing each season from 500 to 2,000 lb. of chicle, which they sell to a master contractor holding rights over the forest. On Crown lands the chicleros are licensed individually and must dispose of their chicle to the master contractor who is responsible for payment, in advance, of royalties. Cuts are made in the bark of the tree and the latex collected in a rubber-proofed canvas bag. The latex is boiled in an iron cauldron and the residual mass of chicle turned out on to a piece of canvas to set. The coagulated blocks, stamped with the chiclero's initials, are sent by mule-pack to the export market which is normally at Belize.

Carefully tapped, a tree will yield about 1½ lb. of gum, and can be retapped after an interval of five years. Except on Crown lands where licensing is enforced and some control is possible, methods of tapping are wasteful and destructive. Tapping is sometimes fatal to the trees, which in any case take a long time to recover ; past success appears due largely to drawings on the reserve of mature trees and it seems unlikely that previous rates of tapping can be maintained in the future. Recent yields of the order of 800,000 to 1,000,000 lb. annually, valued at over half a million dollars, probably include some chicle from the Guatemalan or Mexican side of the border. Prime chicle—the best quality gum—is obtained on the over-exploited private lands of the north, but gum from the Crown lands of the south, though of inferior quality, has found markets as " Crown gum ".

Mahogany is widely distributed in the intermediate and advanced forest. The most valuable timber is found in the northern plains and the coastal areas ; in the west the mahogany is often overmature and much of it is defective.

Mahogany does not occur in pure stands, but in association with other timbers ; the rate of occurrence of mahogany is usually less than one marketable tree per acre, though the best lands of the north are considered to have once held as many as five merchantable trees to the acre. The logs may nowadays be cut from overmature trees in virgin forests far inland, or from smaller trees which have reached the required size in the cutover areas near the coast. The cut trees are hauled by caterpillar tractor to a main road where they are loaded on to

Digitized by Google

long trailers capable of taking three or four trees containing 5,000 board feet of timber. They are taken in this way to a floatable river or to the coast, and thence floated to sawmills at Belize or to ships for direct loading.

Special problems arise in ensuring the natural regeneration of mahogany, the first being that only mature trees are seed bearers and that the tendency in the past has been to leave too few of them standing. Secondly, the cohune palm, found on the richer soils which in the past have produced the best mahogany, tends to suppress the growth of the young mahogany seedlings. Thirdly, the seedlings are particularly liable to attack by the " top shoot borer " and other insect pests.

The largest private timber concern, the Belize Estate and Produce Company, has followed a conservative felling policy with provision for regeneration, but most privately-owned lands have been over-exploited. On Crown lands exploitation is now regulated and girth limits imposed, and in 1945 an Ordinance was published providing for the imposition of girth limits on private felling. Remaining stands of exploitable mahogany are estimated to represent only between 20 and 30 years' supply. Current export production is largely from the Crown lands of the south where the timber was formerly considered inferior ; improved mechanical equipment and communications have contributed to making exploitation of these areas commercially profitable.

The mahogany trade of British Honduras developed rapidly in the fourth decade of the 19th century, under the stimulus of demand for coach building purposes. A peak was reached in 1846 with exports of 13·8 million board feet, after which a decline set in, exports averaging 3–6 million board feet throughout the second half of the century. From 1900 to the first world war exports recovered to about a million board feet, and after a set-back during the war years further expansion took place to a record production of over 27 million board feet in 1927. Another period of decline followed, and a change in the nature and direction of the trade, round logs for the United States of America being produced in addition to the squared logs required by the existing United Kingdom markets ; trade during the early post-war years was at a level of some 250,000 cubic feet (or three million board feet) as lumber and 250,000 cubic feet as logs.

Cedar, sometimes known as Spanish cedar, occurs in association with mahogany and is exploited with it, forming from five to ten per cent. of the output. The wood is in demand largely for making cigar boxes and for boat building. Demand has grown in recent years and exports in 1950 amounted to nearly 70,000 cubic feet, mainly in the form of lumber, worth some $150,000.

Secondary hardwoods exploited include *rosewood* and *Santa Maria*. Rosewood occurs with mahogany and cedar, mainly in the south on private lands ; reserves have not been estimated. Other secondary timbers occur but are little known for the most part. Tests have shown that some varieties have good pulping qualities. Two shipments of *balsa* were made in 1949, to the United Kingdom, and shipments continued through 1950. This wood grows readily on recently cultivated lands, and production is capable of being considerably extended.

Pine forests formerly covered up to one-third of the Colony's total area but there have been heavy losses from fires. The pine is of excellent quality, matures quickly, and thrives on land which is scarcely usable for other purposes. Before 1943 pine was used only for local consumption, but export demand has proved strong within the Caribbean area and production has increased from about 40,000 to 500,000 cubic feet annually. Much softwood was imported in former years and potential domestic demand is considerable. The recent rate of felling, at half a million cubic feet or more annually, is excessive and would exhaust the estimated stock of mature pine in less than a couple of decades. Every effort is being made to provide adequately for regeneration and for protection against fire, most particularly of pine seedlings but also of other timbers.

The *cohune palm* (*orbignya cohune*) occurs extensively over about one-third of the colony's land area. Fruit-bearing trees occur only irregularly and are relatively few. The oil-bearing and economically useful kernel represents only about one-tenth of the weight and volume of the whole nut, which is extremely hard and difficult to crack. These are the chief technical obstacles to the development of an industry on a commercial scale. Attempts were made for a few years beginning in 1928 to create an oil industry based on the nut, but were without success. In more recent post-war years interest in the nut has revived and exploitation has taken place on a small scale. Larger developments await the outcome of investigations which are in progress, designed to overcome the technical problems involved.

In the earliest days of the settlement, the chief attraction of the forests lay in their *logwood*, much prized for its use in dye-making until synthetic dyes came to supersede the natural product.

A number of other forest products are obtained, including certain resins and gums, wild rubber, fustic, pigments, tanning materials, rattan canes, sarsaparilla, silk and grasses, but none of these is as yet of any commercial importance. Attention has been given in recent post-war years to the development of a naval stores industry based on pine by-products, but production on a commercial scale has not been achieved.

Cutting of firewood and charcoal burning are carried on without restriction.

Fisheries

The coast of British Honduras is some 160 miles long in a straight line, or over 300 miles if account is taken of indentations. A barrier reef skirts the coast, some 15 to 25 miles off shore ; there are three outlying reefs, and many rocky shoals and small reefs lying inside the main reef. These provide breeding grounds for many varieties of sea fish which exist in great abundance. In addition, British Honduras is within easy reach of the Campeche Banks, a well known fishing ground, and of the Mosquito Coast, Rosaline Bank, Serrana Cay, and Sercinilla Cay, which are counted among the more fertile fishing grounds of the Caribbean.

The sea fisheries of British Honduras may be producing up to four million pounds of fish annually ; some 600 whole-time and part-time fishermen are engaged in the industry, in which there are about 150 boats of up to ten tons, ranging from 15 to 35 feet. A great number of the Maya Indians fish in the rivers on a subsistence basis.

Fishing techniques are not highly developed. Hand lines are used for trolling and bottom fishing, and drift nets for taking turtle ; beach seines are in use, with lobster pots, fish traps or weirs, and harpoons. Boats are fitted with a " well " having holes which permit a free flow of sea water, and in these wells the fish caught are kept alive until they reach the market. Limited cold storage facilities exist in Belize. The fishermen work independently or in groups of two or three on a share basis ; wage employment is rare. The catches are taken to local markets and sold there by the fishermen themselves. The trade is not organised and there are no forms of co-operative organisation. Fish is a popular item of food and is sold in the principal coast towns either fresh, or wet or dry salted ; in the interior fish is usually sold " dry corned ", owing to lack of transport facilities. Supply is generally more than adequate for local consumption, and any increase in catches resulting from improved methods would require to find export outlets.

Fresh and salted fish, whole lobsters, and lobster tails are exported at the present time to neighbouring Central American countries, to Mexico, and to the United States of America. In 1950 exports were some $27,000, the most valuable part of the trade being that in lobsters and lobster tails, especially the latter. The principal buyer was the United States of America, which took fresh fish to the value of $1,854, together with $2,419 of lobsters and $12,245 of lobster tails.

Digitized by Google

A Fisheries Officer was appointed in October, 1950, whose duties were to regularize and stimulate the sound development of the fishing industry, while safeguarding and as far as possible improving existing resources. An Ordinance imposing close seasons and regulating the methods of fishing employed was introduced in 1948.

Alligator hides, from the inland rivers, are exported in small quantities to the United States of America.

Minerals

The Bahamas Exploration Company, a subsidiary of the Gulf Oil Corporation, has an oil exploration licence covering the whole Colony.

Manufactures

The greater part of manufacturing industry in British Honduras is concerned with processing the territory's agricultural and forest products, either fitting them for economical transport to overseas markets or preparing them for local consumption. Premises registered as factories totalled 63 in 1950.

Several sawmills prepare mahogany and other timbers —now especially pine—for export. The principal mills are those of Belize. Apart from one large bandmill producing mahogany, all concentrate mainly on production of pine lumber. Twenty-two mills were in operation at the end of 1950, two having come into operation during the year.

There is a sugar factory at Corozal, having an annual production of 1,000 tons or more. A few small factories exist in the Toledo District producing brown sugar under primitive conditions for local sale. Eight distilleries manufactured nearly 55,000 proof gallons or over 36,000 liquid gallons of rum in 1950.

A rice mill at Punta Gorda was in operation until mid-1950. A new mill was constructed at Belize in 1950 and early 1951, to commence operations in June, 1951. The new mill has an initial capacity of 3,500–5,000 lb. of paddy per hour. A corn mill is in operation at Belize which in 1950 produced some 100,000 lb. of varied corn products; the operation of this mill has become uneconomical, however, and it is to be replaced by a more modern plant. There is a soap factory which makes use of local copra, producing for the domestic market. A few concerns manufacture aerated waters and cordials, and ice-making plant exists at Belize and at Benque Viejo.

The processing and canning of grapefruit, and more especially the extraction and canning of grapefruit juice, has reached the proportions of a major export industry. A factory situated in the Stann Creek District turns out canned juice to the value of some $250,000 annually. A new factory for the canning of grapefruit sections, employing a labour force of 200, was completed during late 1950 and came into operation in January, 1951.

Other industries and workshops serving local markets include seven woodworking shops, four bakeries, three machine repair shops, and three printing establishments.

Village Industries

A variety of traditional crafts based on local materials are practised in the Colony, hitherto mainly as part-time occupations.

A forest climbing plant, the *desmoncus schippii*, known locally as the basket tie-tie, provides a cane which is split and bleached and plaited into small market baskets and into suitcases of a local variety known as " patakees ". The bellyful tie-tie (*philodendron belizensis*) is used to make baskets, trays, baby cribs and waste paper baskets.

The palmetto or prementa (*accellarrhaphe pinetorum*) is used for hat-making; the heart is split open and the segments are bleached in the sun and then plaited. Big thatch and silver thatch, and the palm jippi-jappa (*carludovica utilis*), all of which grow plentifully in the Colony, are used for making hats, slippers, belts, bags, purses and baskets, and novelties of various kinds.

The coconut palm (*cocos nucifera*) is used for the making of mats and mattresses; the mats are made on hand looms. Henequen or agave is grown in large quantities and is used to make a coarse twine or rope which is made up into saddle girths, reins, bridles, mats, carpets, and a very strong type of hammock, as well as bags, slippers, and shoes.

These handicrafts are also carried out on an organized basis in various Government institutions.

The Social Development Department in 1948 opened a Handicraft Centre at Belize where training is provided for students by an instructor and assistant. The centre employed 25 girls in 1950 on a piece-work basis. The processing and provision of the raw materials is being organised and village production groups started. A substantial expansion of the handicraft industries is looked for in the next few years.

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement is a recent development in British Honduras. It was first introduced into the colony in the form of the credit union movement. The formation and operation of societies is governed by the *Credit Union Ordinance* (No. 16 of 1947) and the *Co-operative Societies Ordinance* (No. 4 of 1948).

In December 1950 there were 17 credit unions with a membership of 2,451 and a total share capital of $76,344; loans issued since inception totalled $162,152. At the same date there were eight savings unions having a membership of 300 and a total share capital of $500. There were two consumer co-operative societies in December, 1950, with a membership of 1,000 and total share capital of $16,000. A Rice Growers' Association is in course of formation in the Toledo District.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

As the Colony has been very dependent on a small number of forest and agricultural products, employment has been subject to wide variations. Adverse weather conditions and the state of export markets for mahogany and chicle caused widespread and heavy unemployment as recently as 1949. Relief measures, partly in the form of public works programmes, were undertaken but became progressively less necessary after British Honduras followed the United Kingdom in devaluing the currency. During 1950, both semi-public and private investment programmes were accelerated and there was some revival of existing export industries so that the reserve of unemployed manpower was reduced to more manageable levels.

The supply of labour is usually more than ample for the requirements of the various industries, apparent shortages which have occurred being due mainly to absenteeism and other causes rather than to any real insufficiency of manpower.

Standards of skill are limited to existing needs, and should industrial development take place involving the use of skilled or technical workers it may be necessary to import workers from abroad.

The following table shows numbers employed and wages or average earnings in the principal branches of activity as at 31st December, 1950; the figures relate only to the larger concerns.

Digitized by Google

EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS, DECEMBER 1950

Industry	*Employers*	*Numbers Employed*	*Wages or Earnings*
Primary Production :			
Mahogany	10	834	$22–75 monthly, plus rations.
Chicle	40	1,590	$25–75 monthly.
Pine and other woods	14	332	$1·60 daily to $65 monthly.
Agriculture	46	2,071	$1·25–1·75 daily.
Secondary Production :			
Sawmilling	21	782	$1·50–5·00 daily.
Fruit Canning	2	315	$1·20–3·00 daily.
Boat Building	6	125	25–52 c. hourly.
Construction	1	75	17–40 c. hourly plus cost of living bonus.
Public Works Department ..	1	1,378	$1·68–4·10 daily.
Other Manufacture..	75	507	...
Services :			
Docks and Sea Transport	11	394	35–44 c. hourly, some plus rations.
Other Services	4	169	...

Labour in the Colony remains comparatively unorganized. There were at the end of 1950 six trade unions with a nominal membership of 4,800, or roughly one-fifth of the total labour force.

The 48-hour week is standard for all Government manual workers, and in the majority of industrial occupations. The principal exceptions are the small sawmills where the average is 54 hours per week, one sugar mill where the total is 84 hours during the crop season, and work in the forests. Sunday is the rest day and a Saturday half-day is usual. The hours of work of shop assistants are limited by legislation to 45 weekly.

Belize forms one of the main sources of labour supply. Workers in the mahogany industry are largely drawn from Belize but agricultural workers are usually taken from nearby villages or settlements.

Migrant Labour

Labourers do not normally travel long distances in search of employment. There is some voluntary migration of workers living near to the northern and western frontiers ; these go into the adjoining republics for seasonal employment in the mahogany and chicle industries and return immediately work ceases.

When workers are engaged in British Honduras for employment outside the Colony a permit for their engagement must first be obtained from the Colonial Secretary and a bond is posted to ensure that they will work under conditions no less favourable than those in British Honduras. Recruiting is subject to the conditions prescribed in an Ordinance, but as it is the practice for workers to offer themselves for employment at the employers' premises there have been only a few instances in which licences were issued under the Ordinance.

Workers from the Colony who obtain employment abroad remit money by safe hand, by Postal Order, by bank draft, or through the employer himself if he has an office within the Colony. There is no system by which money can be remitted through the Labour Department.

Fuel and Power

Supplies of indigenous fuels are limited to the firewood and charcoal extracted from the forests. Plentiful as these have been they are inadequate to sustain a large expansion of industry. Apart from this the colony is dependent at present on imports of liquid and solid fuels, mainly the former.

Electricity is supplied to Belize from the diesel-driven thermal generating station of the government Electricity and Telephone Department. Four direct-connected diesel-driven generating sets are in operation, having a total capacity of 1,055 kW. Direct current is distributed on 110 and 220 volts by a system of overhead lines. There are more than 2,200 consumers.

The territory possesses reserves of water power, some of which are near to Belize and Stann Creek, capable of supplying a hydro-electric plant ; further investigation is needed to determine the conditions under which such a plant could operate economically.

The charges for current at present (1951) are as follows:—

Light :

1st 50 kW.	15 cents per kW.
2nd 50 kW.	12 „ „ „
all over 100 kW.	10 „ „ „

Industrial Power :

1st 50 kW.	15 cents per kW.
next 25 kW.	12 „ „ „
next 100 kW.	7 „ „ „
next 100 kW.	6 „ „ „
next 100 kW.	5 „ „ „
next 100 kW.	4 „ „ „
all over 475 kW.	3 „ „ „

There is a minimum charge of two dollars per month or part thereof.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

From 1932 onwards the Colony has been aided by a grant from H.M. Government. In 1947 the Colony was able to balance its budget without a grant-in-aid chiefly because in that year the abnormal imports, on which *ad valorem* customs duties were paid, brought in exceptional revenue. Since then, however, grants-in-aid have been necessary each year.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony from 1938 :—

Digitized by Google

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–52

Year	Revenue				Expenditure[3]
	Domestic Revenue	C.D. & W. Grants[1]	Grants-in-Aid[2]	Total	
	$	$	$	$	$
1938	1,258,099	313,143	169,360	1,740,602	1,872,413
1939	1,246,173	335,427	386,062	1,967,662	1,967,842
1940	1,096,582	134,834	525,107	1,756,523	1,684,138
1941	1,229,678	226,314	120,252	1,576,244	1,523,997
1942	1,269,014	199,524	181,403	1,649,941	1,636,880
1943	1,427,550	184,313	265,980	1,877,843	1,838,829
1944	1,674,989	662,296	173,290	2,510,575	2,463,786
1945	1,924,171	412,459	169,260	2,505,890	2,529,706
1946	2,206,218	350,683	80,600	2,637,501	2,552,357
1947	2,505,797	435,361	—	2,941,158	2,090,985
1948	2,579,713	528,160	100,750	3,208,623	3,394,916
1949	2,387,241	555,448	768,543	3,711,232	3,847,374
1950	2,693,394	955,985	1,711,095	5,360,474	5,415,752
1951[4]	3,227,500	1,356,288	589,999	5,173,787	4,713,888
1952[5]	3,333,074	—	348,301	3,681,375	3,681,375

(1) Colonial Development and Welfare Grants or, in earlier years, receipts from Colonial Development Fund.

(2) Grants and/or Loans-in-Aid, mainly the former.

(3) Total Expenditure, including Development (and Welfare).

(4) Revised Estimates.

(5) Estimates, excluding Colonial Development and Welfare grants and expenditure, not yet known.

The outstanding public debt of the Colony at 1st January, 1950, amounted to $1,160,503 of which $1,052,778 was in sterling and $107,745 was local dollar debt. The sinking fund totalled $359,399.

In the following tables, revenue and expenditure are analysed according to the principal heads or groups of heads, for the years 1938 and 1950–52.

REVENUE, 1938 AND 1950–52

Heads of Revenue	1938		1950		1951[1]		1952[2]	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Customs	614,581	35·3	1,301,260	24·3	1,700,000	32·9	1,722,100	46·8
Import Duties	507,106	29·1	1,098,924	20·6	...	...	1,500,000	40·7
Export Duties	56,229	3·2	88,243	1·6	...	...	100,000	2·7
Other Charges	51,246	2·9	114,093	2·1	...	...	122,100	3·3
Internal Taxation	184,271	10·6	924,683	17·3	1,054,000	20·4	1,030,010	28·0
Income Tax	33,965	2·0	506,207	9·4	...	...	600,000	16·3
Land Tax	42,402	2·4	107,962	2·0	...	...	100,000	2·7
Excise Duties	83,610	4·8	238,967	4·5	...	...	241,900	6·6
Other	24,294	1·4	71,547	1·3	...	...	88,110	2·4
Revenue of Government Property	62,098	3·6	130,850	2·4	140,000	2·7	165,210	4·5
Fees of Court, etc.	62,227	3·6	135,028	2·5	120,000	2·3	122,785	3·3
Posts and Telegraphs	81,297	4·7	87,172	1·6	92,000	1·8	168,725	4·6
Telephones	14,619	0·8	25,558	0·5	29,000	0·6	28,320	0·8
Interest, etc.	86,573	5·0	51,249	1·0	61,000	1·2	67,874	1·8
Miscellaneous[3]	118,890	6·8	24,014	0·4	19,500	0·4	12,000	0·3
	1,224,556	70·4	2,679,814	50·0	3,215,500	62·1	3,317,024	90·1
Crown Lands	9,543	0·5	8,630	0·2	8,000	0·2	8,050	0·2
Supply of Coins	—	—	4,950	0·1	4,000	0·1	8,000	0·2
Sugar Industry Aid Fund	24,000	1·4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,258,099	72·3	2,693,394	50·3	3,227,500	62·4	3,333,074	90·5
C.D. & W.	313,143	18·0	955,985	17·8	1,356,288	26·2	...	...
Loans in Aid	169,360	9·7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grants in Aid	—	—	820,000	15·3	589,999	11·4	348,301	9·5
Special Grant[4]	—	—	891,095	16·6	—	—	—	—
	1,740,602	100·0	5,360,474	100·0	5,173,787	100·0	3,681,375	100·0

(1) Revised Estimates.

(2) Estimates.

(3) In 1938 includes electricity ($66,131) and railway ($30,417).

(4) *See* footnote (8) to Expenditure Table.

Digitized by Google

EXPENDITURE 1938 AND 1950–1952

Heads of Expenditure	1938		1950		1951(1)		1952(2)	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Debt and Pensions	301,496	16·1	238,047	4·4	240,000	5·1	248,985	6·8
Defence	4,695	0·3	10,612	0·2	12,500	0·3	47,132	1·3
Law and Order(3)	141,216	7·5	332,127	6·1	378,500	8·0	395,879	10·8
Administration(4)	139,154	7·4	367,120	6·8	414,340	8·8	453,690	12·3
Medical	97,670	5·2	344,350	6·4	391,800	8·3	417,356	11·3
Education(5)	106,020	5·7	269,028	5·0	311,120	6·6	361,908	9·8
Agriculture	47,679	2·5	91,231	1·7	98,600	2·1	111,088	3·0
Forestry	29,667	1·6	83,009	1·5	84,000	1·8	104,143	2·8
Railway	48,783	2·6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Airport	—	—	14,237	0·3	18,000	0·4	14,874	0·4
Public Works : Ordinary ..	91,130	4·9	480,921	8·9	523,900	11·1	639,309	17·4
,, ,, Extraordinary ..	33,370	1·8	109,749	2·0	200,600	4·3	365,950	9·9
Labour and Social Services(6) ..	—	—	70,583	1·3	78,000	1·7	86,513	2·4
Fire Brigade	9,276	0·5	17,624	0·3	22,700	0·5	45,334	1·2
Posts and Telegraphs	44,851	2·4	69,354	1·3	87,440	1·9	106,203	2·9
Telephones	82,630	4·4	74,984	1·4	81,400	1·7	76,926	2·1
Survey	31,698	1·7	37,576	0·7	46,000	1·0	49,812	1·4
Subventions	32,512	1·7	42,091	0·8	46,700	1·0	51,631	1·4
Miscellaneous	96,021	5·1	100,862	1·9	102,000	2·2	104,642	2·8
Subsidy	—	—	430,411	7·9	220,000	4·7	—	—
Relief Work	—	—	196,862	3·6	—	—	—	—
	1,337,868	71·5	3,380,778	62·4	3,357,600	71·2	3,681,375	100·0
C.D. & W.	338,710	18·1	1,143,879	21·1	1,356,288	28·8	...	...
Railway(7)	195,835	10·5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reimbursement(8)	—	—	891,095	16·5	—	—	—	—
	1,872,413	100·0	5,415,752	100·0	4,713,888	100·0	3,681,375	100·0

(1) Revised Estimate.

(2) Estimates.

(3) Comprises Crown Law Office (1938) or Attorney General (1950–52), Judicial, Police and Prisons.

(4) Comprises Governor and Councils, Audit, Income Tax, Treasury, General Clerical Establishment, Secretariat, Customs and Harbours and District Administration.

(5) Includes Industrial School in 1938.

(6) Labour, and Social Development and Social Services.

(7) Conversion of Stann Creek Railway.

(8) Reimbursement of Losses of Currency Commissioners.

Customs duties, chiefly on imports, remain the principal source of revenue. Internal taxation, of which the principal item is income tax, has risen in recent wartime and post-war years to provide a larger proportion of the total but continues to make a contribution substantially below that of customs.

Import duties are levied at the British preferential and ordinary rates of 12½ and 25 per cent.; there are numerous exceptions of which further details are given in the paragraph on trade tariffs, under " Economic Legislation ", above. An entry tax is imposed in addition to import duties. Export duties are levied on chicle, coconuts, timber, and fish.

Income tax has been imposed in British Honduras since 1924. Rates were increased in 1948 to five per cent. on the first $500 of chargeable income, rising thereafter on a sliding scale to 35 per cent. on that part of income in excess of $19,000. Surtax also is levied on a sliding scale, on chargeable income over $10,000, at the rate of ten per cent. on the first $5,000, 15 per cent. on the next $5,000 and 20 per cent. on the remainder. *Company tax* is levied at the flat rate of 35 per cent. of the chargeable income of the company. Land tax is levied on all lands at the rate of 1½ cents per acre. Estate duty, on all estates over $100, is charged at rates increasing from one per cent. up to $500 to 25 per cent. over $50,000.

Excise duties are levied on locally-produced rum and on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, if for domestic consumption. The rate of duty on rum is $4·50 per proof gallon; that on manufactured tobacco is 60 c. per lb., that on cigarettes is 15 c. or 30 c. per 100 and that on cigars is either 20 c. or 50 c. per 100 according to weight. A variety of *licence fees* are payable by banks and fire insurance companies, certain other classes of traders, on motor cars and firearms, and on entertainments. *Stamp duties* are payable at 3c. on bills of exchange, cheques and receipts; at 10c. per $100 on promissory notes, and on property transfers and mortgages at 25 c. and 10 c. respectively for every $50 or part thereof; certain other stamp duties are payable.

Royalties on timber are charged, where applicable, at rates up to $25 per tree according to type and location. Chicle royalties are fixed by tender.

Local Government

The principal local authority having a measure of financial autonomy is Belize City Council, formerly Belize Town Board. Town Boards exist at Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, Cayo, Benque Viejo, and Monkey River. All derive revenue from a property tax and fire rate (generally five per cent. and one per cent., respectively, of annual rental values), from the issue of animal and other licences, and from market, slaughterhouse, and cemetery fees, as well as from a variety of minor sources. Property taxes generally account for some 40 per cent. of total revenue, trading and liquor licences for 13 and 9 per cent. respectively, rents, fees, etc., for some 27 per cent., and grants, etc., for 11 per cent. Expenditure is devoted chiefly to the upkeep of streets, the market and slaughterhouse, and cemeteries, to maintaining a fire brigade, and, in the case of Corozal only, to operating electric lighting plant.

In the following tables the revenue and expenditure of Belize City Council are shown for the years 1949–51, with the corresponding figures, for comparison, of the Belize Town Board for 1938 :—

Digitized by Google

BELIZE CITY REVENUE 1938 AND 1949–51

Heads of Revenue	1938		1949		1950*		1951†	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Property Tax	26,511	36·4	38,587	32·2	55,130(1)	40·4	60,800(1)	40·7
Fire Rate	—	—	13,850	11·6	15,000	11·0	17,500	11·7
Licences and Fines	24,784	34·0	28,490	23·8	27,835	20·4	29,585	19·8
Rents and Fees	10,303	14·1	21,242	17·7	20,510	15·0	21,785	14·6
Miscellaneous	1,161	1·6	5,402	4·5	4,844	3·6	3,272	2·2
Total Local Revenue	62,759	86·1	107,571	89·8	123,319	90·4	132,942	88·9
Government Grants	10,100	13·9	12,190	10·2	13,100	9·6	16,600	11·1
Total Revenue	72,859	100·0	119,761	100·0	136,419	100·0	149,542	100·0

BELIZE CITY EXPENDITURE 1938 AND 1949–1951

Heads of Expenditure	1938		1949		1950*		1951†	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Debt Charges	17,013	22·9	14,223	10·0	15,135	11·0	18,244	12·2
Personal Emoluments	14,872	20·0	24,590	17·3	24,327	17·7	26,022	17·4
Streets and Drains	15,762	21·2	33,625	23·6	33,300	24·3	36,800	24·6
Public Health	12,994	17·5	22,505	15·8	18,980	13·8	20,810	13·9
Miscellaneous	7,318	9·8						
Cayes	716	1·0	823	0·6	810	0·6	980	0·7
Office Expenses	1,959	2·6	3,230	2·3	3,575	2·6	3,925	2·6
Pensions	—	—	6,553	4·6	3,796	2·8	1,762	1·2
Allowances	—	—	—	—	5,400	3·9	5,400	3·6
Fire Rate	—	—	13,850	9·7	15,000	10·9	16,625	11·1
Reserve Funds	—	—	1,200	0·8	1,700	1·2	1,700	1·1
Total Ordinary	70,634	94·9	120,599	84·8	122,023	89·0	132,268	88·3
Extraordinary	3,795	5·1	21,624	15·2	15,110	11·0	17,510	11·7
Total Expenditure	74,429	100·0	142,223	100·0	137,133	100·0	149,778	100·0

* Approved Estimates.
† Estimates.
(1) Includes Site Tax, Belize, in 1950 and 1951 ($16,000 in 1950, $11,000 in 1951).

Currency and Banking

The currency standard is the British Honduras dollar, which was at parity with the American dollar until revalued on 1st January, 1950 at $BH4 = £1 sterling. Currency notes, issued by the Currency Commissioners in denominations of $1, $2, $5, and $10, are legal tender up to any amount. Subsidiary silver currency is legal tender up to ten dollars ; coins of bronze, nickle, or mixed metal, in five cent or one cent pieces, are legal tender up to 50 cents.

The note circulation of the Colony, which was $283,536 at 31st December, 1939, rose to $837,643 at the end of 1949 and $1,044,949 at the end of 1950.

Details of the currency circulation as at 31st December, 1950, are as follows :—

CURRENCY CIRCULATION, 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

Denomination	*Number*	*Amount*	
		$	$
Notes :			
$10	31,507	315,070	
$5	99,538	497,690	
$2	57,641	115,282	
$1	116,907	116,907	
			1,044,949
Silver Coins :			
50 c.	139,904	69,052	
25 c.	197,556	49,389	
10 c.	257,390	25,739	
5 c.	110,920	5,546	
			150,626
Other Coins :			
5 c.	515,060	25,783	
1 c.	1,455,400	14,554	
			40,307
			1,235,882

The only banking establishment in the Colony, that of the Royal Bank of Canada, in Belize, was established in 1921 when the Bank of British Honduras was purchased. The usual banking services are provided.

The Government Savings Bank, operating from the Treasury in Belize, with a branch in the administrative centre of each district, increased its deposits from $410,632 at 1st January, 1939, to $1,808,903 at the end of 1948 ; deposits fell during 1949 to an end-year level of $1,608,315 but rose again in 1950 to $1,876,253 at the end of the year. Account holders at the end of 1950 numbered 7,840, with an average holding of $239.

Private Investment

The following statement shows the number of local and foreign companies operating in the Colony—nominal share capital in the case of foreign companies gives no indication of the investments specifically in British Honduras.

COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE COLONY

Category	*Numbers of Companies*	*Summary of Nominal Share Capital*
Local :		
Agricultural products	3	$860,000
Citrus products	3	$600,000
Sugar manufacture	1	$78,000
Oil importation and distribution	2	$160,000
Cinema operation	1	$30,000
General merchandise	10	$3,063,500
Denominational	1	$15
Foreign :		
Banking	1	$35,000,000
Banana-growing and distribution	1	$118,500,000
Chicle importation and/or refining	2	$1,965,000
Coconut and cohune nuts (importation and distribution)	1	$1,998,000
Nuts (all kinds), importation and distribution	1	$497,580
Wood manufacture	3 (1) (2)	£120,000 $1,200,000
Footwear manufacture and distribution	1	$20,000
Oil production	1	£10,000
General merchandise	1	$75,000
Music, composition and publishing and copyright protection	1	Limited by guarantee. No share capital

Digitized by Google

Two foreign companies included in the above statement carry on the business of shipping as a subsidiary undertaking. There are no building societies operating in the Colony at present. There has not been any proceeding in bankruptcy since 1938.

Cost of Living

An enquiry into the working-class cost of living in Belize was carried out by the Department of Labour in 1942. From a sample of 100 workers and their families it was learned that expenditure averaging $BH13 weekly was distributed in accordance with the first column of the following table :—

	$	*Weight*
Food	7·0	71
Clothing	1·4	14
Rent	1·2	12
Fuel, Light and Washing ..	1·0	10
Other Items	2·3	10
	13·0	117

A working-class cost of living index was compiled on this basis, using the slightly modified weights shown in the second column of the table. Data were available which made it possible to use 1939 as a base and it was found that prices were in 1942 some 35 per cent. above their 1939 levels. The subsequent movements of the index are shown in the following table :—

COST OF LIVING INDEX (1939 = 100)

Year	*March*	*June*	*September*	*December*
1942	120	130	135	145
1943	151	151	153	154
1944	154	155	155	158
1945	163	165	162	160
1946	165	168	190	197
1947	202	205	206	206
1948	210	210	209	211
1949	205	204	203	193
1950	202	201	213	222
1951	229	249	262	265

Balance of Trade

The following figures summarise the external trade of British Honduras for the period from 1938 :—

EXTERNAL TRADE 1938–1950

Year	*Total Imports*	*Re-exports*(1)	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Import Surplus*
	$ B.H.	$ B.H.	$ B.H.	$ B.H.	$ B.H.
1938	4,004,091	1,430,845	2,573,246	1,816,274	756,972
1939	3,528,559	1,089,571	2,438,988	1,381,593	1,057,395
1940	3,318,070	1,407,800	1,910,270	1,620,909	289,361
1941	3,751,950	1,589,044	2,162,906	1,768,502	394,404
1942	3,963,161	1,301,018	2,662,143	1,252,318	1,409,825
1943	5,682,712	1,967,566	3,715,146	1,777,760	1,937,386
1944	7,364,217	4,226,594	3,137,623	1,860,322	1,277,301
1945	7,835,026	2,945,849	4,889,177	1,976,083	2,913,094
1946	6,780,758	1,708,998	5,071,760	3,513,030	1,558,730
1947	8,679,486	1,896,991	6,782,495	4,243,522	2,538,973
1948	8,074,556	1,610,328	6,464,228	4,540,707	1,923,521
1949	5,990,264	1,192,245	4,798,019	3,372,602	1,425,417
1950	8,782,607	161,711	8,620,896	4,594,936	4,025,460

(1) In the years up to and including 1948, the item " re-exports " consists substantially of transhipment trade.

The preceding table covers imports and exports (valued c.i.f. and f.o.b., respectively) of merchandise only. Transfers of bullion and specie, which are generally small, are excluded.

The territory's balance of trade has been negative throughout the period shown above. This balance has continued, in the later war and post-war years, to run at much the same level in real terms as before the war ; in money terms it has approximately doubled. It is believed, however, that timber exports have been considerably undervalued, and that the true trade balance may well have been positive.

Principal imports and exports, and their main sources and destinations, are shown in the following tables :

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*	*Quantity*	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*	*Quantity*	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*
Wheat Flour	Tons	3,691	193,075	U.S.A. (64), U.K. (62), Canada (60), Australia (8).	3,690	421,870	U.S.A. (329), Canada (93)	3,986	604,120	U.S.A. (415), Canada (189).
Rice	,,	1,304	72,691	Burma (44), India (15), U.K. (6), Netherlands (6).	786	162,649	Honduras (156), U.S.A. (7)	1,248	305,820	U.S.A. (261), Siam (44).
Butter and Butter Substitutes	,,	151	48,986	U.K. (27), Australia (15), Canada (3).	144	149,912	Australia (134), U.K. (16)	215	220,291	Australia (154), U.K. (55).
Lard and Lard Substitutes	,,	309	63,539	U.K. (41), U.S.A. (21), Canada (1).	164	90,041	U.K. (80), U.S.A. (10)	260	150,408	U.K. (125), U.S.A. (25).
Meat	,,	406	119,509	Canada (50), Argentine (27), U.S.A. (26), U.K. (7), Uruguay (3).	250	176,695	Canada (74), U.S.A. (53), Australia (28), Paraguay (13), Argentine (6).	350	209,456	Canada (69), U.S.A. (63), Australia (56).
Milk	,,	928	152,207	Netherlands (140), Denmark (8), Canada (6), Switzerland (4).	723	350,794	Canada (240), U.S.A. (75), Netherlands (34), U.K. (1).	1,081	567,884	Netherlands (305), Canada (132) Australia (111).
Cheese	,,	66	26,596	Netherlands (15), Canada (11), U.S.A. (0·7).	45	41,022	U.S.A. (20), Canada (9), Australia (7), Netherlands (4).	68	76,574	Australia (52), Netherlands (22).
Salt	,,	383	5,255	U.S.A. (4·7), U.K. (0·5)	323	9,834	U.S.A. (8), U.K. (2)	385	12,746	U.K. (all).
Sugar	,,	214	12,344	U.K. (11), Cuba (1)	149	23,478	Jamaica (all*)	196	35,873	Jamaica (30), U.S.A. (5).
Tea	,,	33	24,114	Ceylon (12), India (6), U.K. (3·3), Canada (2·5).	36	62,408	U.K. (38), Ceylon (24), India (1)	25	52,406	U.K. (36), Ceylon (13).
Peas and Beans	,,	406	28,298	Chile (22), U.S.A. (4·4), U.K. (1·3).	350	90,757	U.S.A. (73), Chile (17)	337	98,505	Chile (78), U.S.A. (15).
Vegetables	,,	411	29,019	U.S.A. (13), Egypt (4), Canada (3), Netherlands (3).	557	81,117	U.S.A. (68), U.K. (5), Canada (3), Netherlands (2), Cyprus (1), Guatemala (1).	481	86,007	U.S.A. (60), Netherlands (6).
Other Foodstuffs	...	...	213,970	...	...	293,442	...	...	412,782	...
Ales, Beer, etc.	Galls.	10,563	17,406	U.K. (16), U.S.A. (0·7)	32,025	52,517	U.K. (27), Netherlands (20), Denmark (5).	38,337	70,073	U.K. (35), Netherlands (25).
Wines	,,	2,493	10,587	U.K. (5), Germany (2), Italy (1), France (0·8), Portugal (0·6), Spain (0·6).	2,623	9,872	U.K. (4), Australia (2), Portugal (2), France (1), Spain (1).	2,325	10,862	U.K. (4), France (1·6).
Spirits	,,	2,056	9,129	U.K. (8), France (0·6), Netherlands (0·4).	2,481	16,008	U.K. (13), France (1·3), Jamaica (0·6), Eire (0·4).	3,538	25,262	U.K. (19), France (3).
Other Drink	,,	483	620	U.S.A. (0·3), U.K. (0·2)	—	—	—	634	910	U.K. (0·7).
Unmanufactured Tobacco	Tons	50	26,337	U.S.A. (18), Canada (7), India (1).	45	55,907	U.S.A. (40), S. Rhodesia (9), Greece (4), Turkey (3).	47	62,555	U.S.A. (50), S. Rhodesia (9).
Cigarettes	,,	9	18,856	U.S.A. (14), U.K. (5)	8	33,025	U.K. (32·3), S. Africa (0·6), Netherlands (0·1).	11	48,816	U.K. (all*).
Other Manufactured Tobacco	,,	1	2,298	Jamaica (1·4), Mexico (0·4), U.K. (0·3), U.S.A. (0·2).	—	913	Jamaica (0·6), Netherlands (0·2), U.K. (0·1).	—	697	Jamaica (0·5).
Asphalt	,,	565	16,917	U.S.A. (13·6), Mexico (3·4)	567	29,880	U.S.A. (20), Trinidad (10)	725	44,559	Trinidad (30), U.S.A. (14).
Chicle Gum	,,	397	274,933	Mexico (all)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mahogany Logs	Cu. ft.	530,848	663,601	Mexico (654), Honduras (9·6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Wood and Timber	,,	113,463	60,071	U.S.A. (all*)	14,205	10,689	Belgium (6), Sweden (2), U.K. (2).	20,887	21,910	Sweden (11), U.K. (5), Belgium (5).
Other Raw Materials	...	...	11,618	...	...	25,908	...	...	89,213	...
Footwear	Pairs	116,382	96,801	U.K. (59), Canada (20), Hong Kong (7), U.S.A. (7), Czechoslovakia (6).	69,828	166,800	U.K. (114), Canada (19), Hong Kong (10), India (3), U.S.A. (1).	98,856	187,095	U.K. (130), Canada (30).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950 (*continued*)

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value ($ B.H.)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s	Quantity	Value ($ B.H.)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s	Quantity	Value ($B.H.)	Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s
Headgear	Articles	76,622	29,678	U.S.A. (12), U.K. (10), Hong Kong (2), Japan (1·4), Mexico (1·0).	36,972	27,507	U.K. (12), U.S.A. (6), Mexico (3), Honduras (2), Jamaica (2), Hong Kong (2).	19,368	15,282	U.K. (4·6), San Salvador (4·6), Italy (3·6).
Shirts, Singlets, Vests, etc.	,,	152,208	43,901	Hong Kong (24), U.S.A. (7), Japan (5), Jamaica (3), Canada (3).	62,868	39,814	Hong Kong (10), U.S.A. (8), U.K. (8), Honduras (6), Jamaica (4), Canada (4).	102,660	89,687	Hong Kong (39), Honduras (12), U.S.A. (11).
Other Apparel	...	...	108,172	U.S.A. (46), U.K. (23), Japan (12), Canada (10), Hong Kong (9).	...	96,656	U.K. (49), U.S.A. (30), Jamaica (5), Canada (5).	...	72,620	U.K. (49), Hong Kong (10), U.S.A. (9).
Cotton Piece Goods	Lin. yds.	1,622,285	168,314	U.K. (98), U.S.A. (42), Canada (9), India (8), Hong Kong (4).	1,033,309	323,936	U.S.A. (169), Canada (99), U.K. (48), Mexico (5), Japan (2).	1,337,693	455,573	U.S.A. (168), Canada (129), U.K. (77).
Art Silk Piece Goods	,,	360,514	52,064	Japan (30), U.K. (12), France (4), U.S.A. (2), Italy (2).	92,332	54,183	U.K. (51), U.S.A. (2), Canada (1).	266,699	143,547	U.K. (114), Japan (24).
Wool Piece Goods	,,	23,665	21,496	U.K. (all*)	10,439	25,026	U.K. (24), Czechoslovakia (1·3)	15,404	30,964	U.K. (all).
Other Textiles	...	...	45,579	U.K. (20), Japan (12), U.S.A. (8)	...	112,621	U.K.(88),U.S.A.(18),Canada(4)	...	95,259	U.K. (73), U.S.A. (8).
Electrical Apparatus	...	...	38,633	U.S.A. (32), Netherlands (4), U.K. (2).	...	78,359	U.K. (42), U.S.A. (21), Netherlands (7), Canada (4), Hong Kong (3), Singapore (1).	...	129,207	U.K. (73), U.S.A. (24).
Implements and Tools	...	...	29,673	U.S.A. (18), U.K. (7), Canada (4).	...	61,544	U.S.A. (41), U.K. (18), Canada (3).	...	146,563	U.K. (80), U.S.A. (54).
Machinery	...	...	149,228	U.S.A. (65), U.K. (50), Germany (16), Canada (13), Sweden (5).	...	248,637	U.S.A. (195), U.K. (49), Canada (10), Netherlands (1).	...	729,839	U.S.A. (521), U.K. (173).
Electric Lighting	...	...	17,956	U.K. (11), U.S.A. (7)	...	48,299	U.S.A. (29), U.K. (18), Netherlands (1), Canada (6).	...	73,700	U.K. (53), U.S.A. (17).
Marine	Tons	...	49,087	U.S.A. (30), Germany (11), Sweden (5), U.K. (3).	16	41,697	U.S.A. (29), U.K. (13)	12½	35,738	U.S.A. (20), U.K. (13).
Sawmilling	,,	...	6,883	U.S.A. (6·4), Canada (0·5)	58	84,975	U.S.A. (81), Canada (4)	41½	97,615	U.S.A. (97).
Other	...	...	75,302	U.K. (36), U.S.A. (22), Canada (12), Germany (5).	...	73,666	U.S.A. (56), U.K. (18)	...	522,786	U.S.A. (387), U.K. (106).
Metal Manufactures	...	...	167,802	U.S.A. (74), U.K. (45), Canada (31), Germany (16), Netherlands (3).	...	403,181	U.K. (226), U.S.A. (107), Belgium (59), Canada (8), Germany (3).	...	336,419	U.K. (274), U.S.A. (27).
Vehicles and Parts	...	...	297,847	U.S.A. (228), U.K. (30), Canada (28), Germany (11).	...	705,835	U.S.A. (476), U.K. (210),Canada (20).	...	1,147,583	U.S.A. (733), U.K. (409).
Railway	...	...	13,373	Germany (9·4), U.S.A. (2·6), Netherlands (1·4).	...	1,345	U.S.A. (all)	...	1,958	U.S.A. (all).
Road :										
Motor Trucks	No.	49	68,003	U.S.A. (45), Canada (13), U.K. (10).	22	40,404	U.K. (28), U.S.A. (13)	80	221,862	U.K. (112), U.S.A. (109).
Motor Jeeps	,,	—	—	—	23	40,089	U.K. (32), U.S.A. (8)	21	32,383	U.K. (26), U.S.A. (6).
Motor Cars	,,	28	23,238	U.S.A. (12), Canada (10), U.K. (2).	32	43,455	U.K. (38), U.S.A. (5)	65	102,832	U.K. (89), U.S.A. (13).
Tractors	,,	19	56,745	U.S.A. (all)	25	144,110	U.S.A. (138), U.K. (7)	57	394,689	U.S.A. (363), U.K. (31).
Motor Cycles and Tricars	,,	9	792	Germany (all)	23	5,480	U.K. (5), U.S.A. (1)	62	17,883	U.K. (15).
Pedal Cycles	,,	318	5,996	U.K. (5·5), Germany (0·5)	738	25,329	U.K. (all)	945	33,045	U.K. (all).
Spare parts, all kinds	...	...	82,035	U.S.A. (72), U.K. (9), Canada (1).	...	272,524	U.S.A. (239), U.K. (24), Canada (9).	...	285,760	U.S.A. (231), U.K. (54).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950 (*continued*)

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*	*Quantity*	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*	*Quantity*	*Value ($ B.H.)*	*Principal Countries of Origin, with values in $000s*
Tyres and Tubes ..	No.	3,125	11,465	Canada (4), U.K. (4), U.S.A. (3)	6,042	57,690	U.K. (41), Canada (11), U.S.A. (6).	5,799	57,171	U.K. (48), U.S.A. (9).
Other Vehicles ..	...	...	36,200	U.S.A. (all*)	...	75,409	U.S.A. (65), U.K. (10)	—	—	—
Petrol and Oils	Galls.	...	206,123	U.S.A. (152), Mexico (44), U.K. (8).	...	525,534	Netherlands W. Indies (274), U.S.A. (161), Mexico (34), Trinidad (28), U.K. (21), Canada (8).	...	791,832	Netherlands W. Indies (434), U.S.A. (155), Trinidad (133).
Fuel Oils	,,	380,447	43,237	U.S.A. (29), Mexico (14) ..	538,649	138,512	Netherlands W. Indies (78), U.S.A. (42), U.K. (15), Mexico (3).	599,322	198,295	Netherlands W. Indies (103), U.S.A. (67), Trinidad (28).
Lubricating Oil	Galls.	48,755	23,657	U.S.A. (20), Mexico (2), U.K. (1), Germany (0·6).	45,015	27,669	U.S.A. (27), U.K. (1)	68,004	47,964	U.S.A. (39), U.K. (9).
Illuminating Oils	,,	239,441	36,795	U.S.A. (32), Mexico (4) ..	373,380	114,785	Netherlands W. Indies (62), Mexico (23), U.S.A. (18), Trinidad (12).	360,570	132,646	Netherlands W. Indies (94), Mexico (20), Trinidad (17).
Motor and Aviation Spirit ..	,,	567,911	93,433	U.S.A. (70), Mexico (24) ..	752,662	230,529	Netherlands W. Indies (134), U.S.A. (73), Trinidad (16), Mexico (8).	972,083	390,869	Netherlands W. Indies (237), Trinidad (88), U.S.A. (49).
Other	...	...	9,001	U.K. (7), U.S.A. (1)	...	14,039	Canada (8), U.K. (5), U.S.A. (1)	...	22,058	U.K. (14), Argentina (4).
Cement	Tons	1,372	21,354	U.K. (17), U.S.A. (4)	1,695	45,802	U.K. (43), U.S.A. (2)	1,996	64,570	U.K. (59), U.S.A. (4).
Medicines and Drugs ..	...	...	59,475	U.S.A. (31), U.K. (18), Canada (7), Germany (1).	...	67,295	U.K. (40), U.S.A. (19), Canada (7), Jamaica (2).	...	80,614	U.K. (38), U.S.A. (15).
Paper and Stationery ..	...	...	51,519	U.S.A. (18), U.K. (16), Canada (8), Denmark (2), Norway (2).	...	100,172	Canada (35), U.S.A. (34), U.K. (31).	...	130,908	Canada (49), U.K. (39).
Paints and Colours	Tons	1,836	25,388	U.K. (15), U.S.A. (8), Canada (2).	122	69,110	U.K. (62), Netherlands (4), U.S.A. (3).	175	100,851	U.K. (97).
Other Painters' Materials ..	Galls.	1,599	1,183	U.S.A. (0·8), U.K. (0·3), Canada (0·1).	446	1,785	U.K. (1·6), Netherlands (0·2) ..	2,864	6,172	U.K. (4·6).
Perfumery and Toilet Preparations	...	...	29,448	U.S.A. (18), U.K. (4), France (4), Jamaica (2), Canada (1).	...	35,123	U.K. (34), Jamaica (1) ..	...	47,051	U.K. (41).
Soaps	Tons	424	56,040	U.K. (40), U.S.A. (10), Canada (3), Netherlands (3).	92	50,730	U.K. (49), U.S.A. (1)	109	58,224	U.K. (54).
Other Manufactures ..	...	...	177,765	...	...	519,920	...	...	486,792	...
Animals not for food ..	...	...	5,670	Honduras (4·7), Guatemala (0·6), U.S.A. (0·3).	...	4,032	Jamaica (2·6), U.S.A. (1·4) ..	...	1,489	U.S.A. (all).
Total Merchandise ..			4,004,091			5,990,264			8,782,607	
Imports			1,430,845			1,192,245			161,711	
Less Re-exports										
Total Retained Imports of Merchandise ..			2,573,246			4,798,019			8,620,896	

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS, 1938, 1949 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949			1950		
		Quantity	Value ($ B.H.)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in $000s	Quantity	Value ($ B.H.)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in $000s	Quantity	Value ($ B.H.)	Principal Countries of Destination, with values in $000s
Fish	Tons	179	1,367	Honduras (1·2), Mexico (0·2)	61	7,235	Puerto Rico (3), Mexico (2), Caymen Is. (1), Guatemala (1).	50	8,480	Mexico (3), U.S.A. (2), Jamaica (1·5).
Bananas	Bunches	776,172	282,890	U.S.A. (all)	58,056	38,269	U.S.A. (all)	28,302	21,607	U.S.A. (all*).
Grapefruit	Tons	2,016	84,447	U.K. (60), Canada (23), Bermuda (1).	3,090	230,870	U.K. (all*)	4,090	295,692	U.K. (all*).
Grapefruit Juice	,,	43	3,770	Canada (2), U.K. (2)	1,479	288,872	U.K. (all)	1,037	245,100	Canada (all*).
Corn	,,	—	—	—	920	95,494	Trinidad (all*)	—	—	—
Lobsters and Lobster Tails	,,	15	1,436	Canal Zone (0·7), U.S.A. (0·6)	42	13,002	U.S.A. (10), Honduras (1), Mexico (1), San Salvador (1).	56	19,521	U.S.A. (15), Mexico (2).
Other Food	...	...	8,129	...	...	55,238	...	...	11,954	...
Chicle	Tons	394	289,591	U.S.A. (157), Canada (83), U.K. (50).	309	509,683	U.S.A. (319), U.K. (172), Canada (19).	417	1,002,451	Canada (483), U.K. (379), U.S.A. (140).
Coconuts	000s.	4,779	49,803	U.S.A. (all*)	1,807	82,618	U.S.A. (65), Canada (18)	1,036	62,312	U.S.A. (29), Netherlands (16), Bahamas (7).
Copra	Tons	162	8,048	Panama (7), Mexico (1)	7	825	Mexico (all)	68	14,318	Panama (all).
Cedar Logs	Cu. ft.	34,470	25,575	U.S.A. (all)	11,644	9,941	U.S.A. (all)	2,795	5,632	U.S.A. (5).
,, Lumber	,, ,,	856	590	U.K. (all)	36,181	100,041	U.K. (79), Jamaica (20), U.S.A. (1).	64,842	143,789	Jamaica (75), U.K. (56), Cuba (13).
Mahogany Logs	,, ,,	814,219	777,177	U.S.A. (755), U.K. (22)	123,455	128,674	U.S.A. (109), Germany (15), Canada (2), U.K. (2).	319,008	619,367	U.S.A. (472), U.K. (112), Sweden (35).
,, Lumber	,, ,,	228,060	264,194	U.K. (262), Bermuda (1)	326,236	1,148,790	U.K. (862), U.S.A. (116), Jamaica (82), Canada (37), Netherlands (23), Sweden (21).	382,809	1,000,087	U.K. (453), U.S.A. (179), Canada (144), Sweden (113), Jamaica (85).
Pine Lumber	,, ,,	—	—	—	443,126	593,985	Jamaica (564), Antigua (15), U.S.A. (14).	702,388	1,062,424	Jamaica (534), Trinidad (286), Barbados (97), Grenada (35), St. Kitts (33).
Other Raw Materials	...	...	19,257	...	...	64,435	...	...	79,726	...
Manufactures	...	...	—	—	...	2,315	...	...	2,476	...
Total Domestic Exports			1,816,274			3,372,602			4,594,936	

Notes
— = nil or negligible.
... = not known or not available.
* = except for a small amount.

Digitized by Google

The United States of America remains the principal supplier of imports into British Honduras, but imports from the United Kingdom have risen by a greater relative amount as compared with 1938. In the sphere of exports from the Colony, the positions of the United Kingdom and the United States of America have been reversed both in absolute and in relative terms, the amount and proportion of exports taken by the United Kingdom having risen very substantially, and the amount and proportion of exports going to the United States having fallen no less markedly. Details are shown in the table below :—

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1938, 1949, AND 1950, BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

	1938		1949		1950	
	$ (B.H.)	per cent	$ (B.H.)	per cent	$ (B.H.)	per cent
Imports from :—						
United Kingdom	763,168	19·1	1,802,885	30·1	2,790,748	31·8
Other Commonwealth—						
Australia	22,933	0·6	171,574	2·9	390,604	4·5
Canada	322,677	8·1	716,784	12·0	713,759	8·1
Others	168,937	4·2	219,554	3·6	527,990	6·0
	514,547	12·9	1,107,912	18·5	1,632,353	18·6
Foreign Countries—						
Mexico	984,909	24·6	55,370	0·9	49,010	0·6
Netherlands	174,150	4·3	79,862	1·3	428,808	4·9
Netherlands W. Indies	24	0·0	273,730	4·6	433,754	4·9
United States of America	1,232,608	30·8	2,326,071	38·8	3,029,852	34·5
Others	334,585	8·4	344,434	5·8	418,082	4·7
	2,726,376	68·1	3,079,467	51·4	4,359,506	49·6
Total Imports	4,004,091	100·0	5,990,264	100·0	8,782,607	100·0
Exports to :—						
United Kingdom	414,424	12·8	1,696,431	37·2	1,330,565	28·0
Other Commonwealth—						
Canada	111,066	3·4	76,185	1·7	872,281	18·3
Jamaica	1,037	0·0	695,197	15·2	718,561	15·1
Others	3,101	0·1	159,446	3·5	526,068	11·1
	115,204	3·5	930,828	20·4	2,116,910	44·5
Foreign Countries—						
Mexico	312,239	9·6	208,455	4·6	98,046	2·1
Nicaragua	399	0·0	683,051	15·0	75	—
United States	2,369,996	73·0	911,757	20·0	891,299	18·7
Others	34,857	1·1	134,325	2·9	319,752	6·7
	2,717,491	83·7	1,937,588	42·4	1,309,172	27·5
Total Exports	3,247,119	100·0	4,564,847	100·0	4,756,647	100·0

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

A Ten Year Development Plan for British Honduras was prepared in 1950–51. Already, however, in the years from 1945, development had proceeded at a rapid and increasing rate. A Development Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the programme in 1950.

The main weight of the effort so far has been concentrated on improvement of communications, mainly roads and bridges but also river and port installations. An ambitious programme of road construction has made steady progress. A new road from Corozal to the Mexican border was completed in 1947, and a new bridge was opened over the Belize river, five miles from Belize. Work continued through 1948, and in 1949 a new suspension bridge at El Cayo was completed and opened to traffic. During the period 1946–50 as a whole, major bituminous-surfaced roads were constructed from Belize to Cayo (86 miles) and from Belize to Hector Creek ; this latter, connecting with the Cayo road, shortened the journey from Belize to Cayo by almost 12 miles. A road from Roaring Creek to Middlesex was begun in 1950 after extensive preliminary survey. Construction of feeder roads was pursued throughout.

A technical high school has been constructed at a cost of some £45,000 ; a principal for the school took up his duties in February, 1951. Schools damaged by a hurricane in 1942 have been rebuilt. The building of 40 houses in Belize has been undertaken, along with schemes to improve the main streets and to provide an improved water supply for the capital. Other development projects which have advanced some way towards completion include the construction of ten rural dispensaries, land reclamation in the Belize area, farm and land development for the local production of foodstuffs and livestock, forest regeneration, provision of a suction dredger, and a variety of smaller schemes.

Other Development

The Colonial Development Corporation has five major development schemes in progress in British Honduras, involving a total capital of £1,673,500, of which some £450,000 had been expended up to mid-1951. The schemes comprise the construction of an hotel at Belize, the cultivation of ramie fibre and of bananas, and stock-raising.

The hotel—for which there is a great need in Belize—will have 24 double bedrooms and its design will make expansion possible to 48 bedrooms. Construction has been delayed and costs have risen considerably ; completion is now expected about the end of 1952.

The Barton Ramie Estate covers 2,000 acres in the El Cayo district, of which 1,500 acres are to be cleared and planted in three years from 1950. The product will be processed at first to the stage of dry decorticated ribbons known as China grass, and possibly later to the more advanced stage of prepared filasse. The scheme has progressed more or less according to plan, and the first 500 acres had been cleared by September, 1951.

The British Honduras Fruit Company Limited began in 1949 as a partnership between the Colonial Development Corporation and British Honduras Enterprises Limited ; the latter has now ceased to participate and the Colonial Development Corporation is preparing to continue, with additional capital and new partners. The Company has a

Digitized by Google

5,500 acre estate in the Stann Creek area, of which 3,000 acres are suitable for and applied to the cultivation of bananas. Additional land is being acquired to bring banana cultivation to 4,000 acres, which is considered the economic minimum. Some 1,800 acres were under bananas in late 1951 ; production and marketing have commenced and the enterprise promises well.

Experimental plantings of cocoa, on an estate which was to be devoted to cocoa and bananas, have not been a success and the scheme is continuing on the trial basis of bananas only.

About 70,000 acres are being leased in the El Cayo district and grazing rights acquired over other areas, for the establishment of a stock farm devoted to cattle (for beef and dairy products), sheep (for wool and mutton), pigs, poultry, and vegetables. Development to the full scale planned will extend over 12 years, by which time the enterprise is expected to make a substantial contribution to domestic requirements of meat, etc., and to provide surpluses of wool and other products for export. Up to the last quarter of 1951, physical progress was limited to some land clearance and fencing, and to the construction of headquarters buildings.

Encouragement to private investment was given by the exemptions from customs duty and the income tax concessions embodied in *Statutory Instruments* Numbers 53 and 54 of 1949, and devaluation at the end of 1949 gave an impetus to investment in the private sector of the economy. Development activity expanded rapidly in 1950 and was maintained in 1951. A number of commercial investors, both British and American, have embarked upon a variety of projects for the production of bananas, coconuts, tannic acid, pineapples, and citrus.

Digitized by Google

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Falkland Islands lie in the South Atlantic Ocean between latitude 51° and 53° S. and longitude 57° and 62° W., roughly 1,000 miles south of Montevideo, 300 miles east of the Straits of Magellan and 480 miles north-east of Cape Horn. They comprise East Falkland and West Falkland, separated by Falkland Sound, and some 200 smaller islands lying about them within a space of 130 by 80 miles. Their aggregate area, computed from Admiralty charts, is as follows :—

	sq. miles
East Falkland and adjacent islands ..	2,580
West Falkland and adjacent islands ..	2,038
	4,618

There are two groups of Dependencies : (*a*) South Georgia with the South Orkney and South Sandwich Islands, the boundaries being the parallel of latitude 50° S., and the meridians of longitude 20° and 50° W., (*b*) the South Shetland Islands and Graham Land, bounded by the parallel of latitude 58° S., and the meridians of longitude 50° and 80° W. The Island of South Georgia lies roughly 800 miles east and 100 miles south of the Falkland Islands ; it is 100 miles long and some 20 miles across at the widest part, and has an area of about 1,450 square miles. The South Orkney and the South Sandwich Islands are some 450 miles south-west and south-east respectively of South Georgia. The South Shetlands, close to and north of Graham Land, are roughly 500–600 miles south of the Falklands and 250 miles west of the South Orkneys.

The Falkland Islands possess a deeply indented, fiord-like coastline with an abundance of natural harbours and anchorages. The land surface is hilly, reaching a height of 2,315 feet in Mount Adam on West Falkland. The rivers are little more than large streams with levels varying widely according to rainfall ; they are not navigable, and most are fordable at their estuaries. South Georgia and the other Dependencies are mountainous and barren. Volcanic disturbances have been recorded on several occasions at Deception Island, South Shetlands.

The only town is Stanley, the capital, lying on East Falkland. Smaller settlements exist at various farm stations, the most important being Darwin, headquarters of the Falkland Islands Company's farms. The entire territory outside Stanley is known locally as " The Camp ". In the Dependencies, there is a settlement at Grytviken, the Government Headquarters on South Georgia. A port of entry, in the Dependencies, additional to that at Grytviken, is Port Foster, Deception Island.

In the Falklands the temperature is uniformly low, ranging from 40° to 65° in summer and from 30° to 50° in winter, with an annual mean of 42°. Influenced by the sea, the annual variation is relatively small ; daily variation, on the other hand, is influenced chiefly by wind direction and force, which is markedly inconsistent and frequently gives rise to wide ranges of temperature within short intervals.

Although South Georgia is only some 100 miles farther south than the Falklands, there is a striking difference in climate, that of the former approaching conditions in the Antarctic. In 1948 the average mean temperature in South Georgia was 34·3°. The other Dependencies are quite Antarctic in character and almost completely snow-covered throughout the year ; their mountainous interiors contain many glaciers.

Annual rainfall in the Falkland Islands seldom exceeds 30 inches. Snow falls frequently but does not lie long. In summer, at times the atmosphere is very dry and evaporation rapid. In South Georgia, in 1948, rain fell on 96 days, and snow or sleet on 209 days. High winds are usual in the summer, predominantly from the west.

The soil in the Falklands is chiefly peat, with underlying clay or sand ; areas of sandy soil also occur. There is much bog, and shallow ponds are numerous (the name " pond " is applied locally even to quite extensive areas of inland fresh water).

Grass, of one kind or another, is the natural climax vegetation of the islands. Generally it takes the form of rough moorland, interrupted by outcrops of rock or collections of angular boulders known as " stone runs " or " stone rivers ". Much of this natural grassland is quite similar to the hill areas, above 1,000 feet, of Great Britain. There are numerous small sheltered valleys, often no more than an acre or two in extent, where the small rush is the predominant vegetation. These valleys provide rich grazing and are almost invariably heavily stocked.

It is estimated that out of a total land area of approximately 2,955,520 acres, some 2,248,320 acres are suitable for pasture.

The Falklands are treeless, except for a few small plantations close to some of the main settlements. There are no natural woodlands, and trees are grown only with difficulty even in the most sheltered situations. There are one or two native shrubs, growing to a height of about three feet, but not normally of use either in stock nutrition or as shelter from the winds. Other woody forms are the prostrate or low-growing shrubs, including diddle dee (the local equivalent of British heather), Christmas bush, and mountain berry. These three grow in a wide variety of situations but are perhaps most characteristic of the dry heaths on the ridges. Gorse has been introduced, and some of the older plantings, made 70 and even more years ago, form dense and effective shelter belts.

No mineral deposits have yet been discovered sufficiently rich to justify their working.

Population

The population is entirely white. It is chiefly British, and, to a smaller extent, Scandinavian in origin. The estimated population was at 31st December, 1950, as follows :—

POPULATION, 31ST DECEMBER, 1950

	Males	*Females*	*Persons*
Falkland Islands	1,227	1,004	2,231
Dependencies :			
South Georgia ..	1,421	4	1,425
Other Dependencies ..	20	—	20
Total	2,668	1,008	3,676

The figures given for the Dependencies are those of the estimated resident population ; during parts of the year, when whaling is in progress, the actual population may be more than double this figure. The density of population of the Falkland Islands is 0·49 persons per square mile.

Of the population of the Falkland Islands approximately one half is resident in Stanley, the capital, while the remainder is distributed more or less equally between the outlying districts of East and West Falkland. The population of South Georgia is concentrated in Grytviken and the few whaling stations.

In 1950 there were 35 births and 26 deaths in the Falkland Islands, representing birth and death rates of 15·7 and 11·7 per thousand respectively ; there were two deaths in the Dependencies.

Lack of transport facilities limits internal migration. For some years past there has been a noticeable movement of men into Stanley ; this was aggravated in the early part of the war. There was formerly a discernible trend of external migration to the sheep-farming areas of southern South America, but external migration at present

Digitized by Google

is almost entirely to the United Kingdom or English-speaking Dominions. Arrivals in the Falklands during 1950 totalled 155 (95 males, 60 females) and departures numbered 200 (118 males, 82 females), a net loss by migration of 45 persons, as compared with eight in the previous year and 11 in 1948. In 1950 there were some two dozen aliens resident in the territory, all employed workers.

The principal occupations are sheep-farming, whaling, and sealing. The remainder of the occupied population is largely engaged in administration.

Social Amenities

Education

Education is free and compulsory in Stanley for all children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, and in the Camp for all children aged 5 to 7 living within one mile of a settlement school and all children aged 7 to 14 living within two miles.

There is a government school in Stanley catering separately for infants, junior, and senior pupils. A continuation class provides for work in some subjects up to Junior Cambridge level. The average number of pupils in 1950 was 205 of whom 57 were infants. The staff numbered sixteen. A system of boarding allowances assists people in remote areas to send their children to school in Stanley.

There were seven settlement schools in 1950, at four of which full time education was provided ; part-time education was provided at the remaining three. Few of the settlement schools have more than six pupils in attendance at one time. Itinerant teachers, who numbered five in 1950, visit children in the remoter districts out of reach of settlement schools.

Apart from the classes at Stanley already mentioned, there are no facilities in the islands for systematic higher education. A government scholarship is awarded annually to the three-year course of secondary education at the British School in Montevideo.

School buildings at present in use are old and generally ill-adapted to their purpose. A new infant school of modern design is under construction at Stanley. In the Camp one new settlement school has been completed and others are to follow.

The total teaching staff in 1950 numbered 24 persons (10 male, 14 female).

The teaching at Stanley includes woodwork and metal work ; there is no other vocational instruction.

Experiments with evening classes have not proved very successful.

Health

Although there is little sunshine the climate is generally healthy, especially in the Camp, but is rather damp in and around Stanley. The constant high winds in summer are trying.

The chief causes of minor ill-health are coryza, the common cold, and a mild, endemic gastro-enteritis which reaches epidemic form in late spring and early autumn. Dyspepsia is common. Epidemics of mumps, measles, rubella, and streptococcal throat are more serious on account of the low resistance to disease possessed by most islanders. Dental caries and pyorrhea are prevalent ; children suffer from defective teeth at an early age. Vaccination is compulsory.

The King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, built in 1914 and subsequently modified, has 17 beds. The accommodation is inadequate and far from up to date, and a new wing is under construction. Medical services in the Camp are provided by medical officers stationed at Stanley, Darwin, and Fox Bay, who travel constantly throughout their areas. Farms and individuals pay annual contributions towards the cost of these services.

Ante-natal and child welfare clinics are held at the K.E.M. Hospital, and mothers are encouraged to come there for confinement, shipping fares being paid by the Government where necessary.

A specially equipped motor fishing vessel is used to carry serious cases from outlying places to hospital, and aircraft are now available for urgent cases.

There is little sickness in the Dependencies, even colds being rare, and accidents among the whaling crews are dealt with by the companies' own doctors and hospitals on South Georgia. At Grytviken the Government contributes a share of the salary of the resident Medical Officer.

Housing

Most houses are of timber construction, with corrugated iron roofs, chimneys being of brick or stone. All are built under permit from the Board of Health which imposes sanitation and construction standards comparable to those of local authorities in the United Kingdom. War and post-war shortages of materials and the increased urban populations, have resulted in a shortage of houses in Stanley.

The Government maintains accommodation for officials and has two blocks of small houses rented to the more necessitous members of the community. There is also private building. There are no building societies, but the Government makes loans to facilitate new building. The current minimum cost of building a house is over £1,000.

Regular sanitary inspection is carried out and a high standard is enforced.

In the Dependencies housing is provided by the Government for officials, and by the whaling companies for their employees ; it is of a type specially suited to the rigorous climate.

Social Security

There is no unemployment and no system of unemployment benefit. Poor relief is granted by the Stanley Town Council in necessitous cases. A voluntary society, the Stanley Benefit Club, provides sickness and death benefits for its members. All except the smallest employers operate Provident Funds for their workers. A Government Social Security Scheme embodying provision for Old Age Pensions is under consideration. The Government Savings Bank is well patronised by a thrifty community ; depositors at the end of 1949 numbered 1,851 and deposits totalled £552,384.

Political Structure

The Colony is administered by the Governor with the aid of the Executive and Legislative Councils. The Executive Council has three *ex officio* members and two unofficial members nominated by the Governor. The Legislative Council has hitherto consisted of six official members (three *ex officio* and three nominated) and six unofficial members (two nominated and four elected—one each elected for East and West Falkland, two for Stanley) ; in October, 1951, however, the Secretary of State approved proposals for reducing the official nominated members to two, thus giving a majority to the unofficial side.

The only Local Authority is the Stanley Town Council, which consists of six elected members and three members nominated by the Governor ; the first elections took place in 1948. The Council's responsibilities include : Public Health, Water Supply, Street Lighting, Fire Brigade, Town Hall, Public Library and Museum, Public Baths, Cemetery.

The principal Department of the Administration is the Secretariat, which embodies the offices of the Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Registrar General, and their staffs. The Public Works Department, headed by the Executive Engineer, who is also the Harbour Master, is responsible for construction, repair and maintenance on behalf of Government, including roads ; it also administers shipping. The Electrical and Telegraphs Department, under its Supervisor, is responsible for the supply of electricity to Stanley and for the maintenance of a wireless and a broadcasting station which latter also operates a re-diffusion system for Stanley Town.

Digitized by Google

The Agricultural Department is under an Agricultural Officer assisted by a Common Ranger and staff. The Agricultural Officer advises farmers, makes tours of inspection, reports on the condition of livestock, and supervises measures to combat outbreaks of animal disease.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The formation and conduct of companies and business partnerships are governed by the Companies and Private Partnerships Ordinance, 1922. With the exception, for example, of a few general merchants, almost all companies are engaged in sheep-farming.

Trade Tariffs

Customs duties are levied on wines, spirits, malt liquors, tobacco, cigarettes, and matches ; preference is granted to British matches and to Empire wines and tobacco. Export duties are levied on wool, hides, tallow, whale and seal oils, and by-products of the whaling and sealing industry. Import licensing is in force for all goods coming from outside the Sterling Area and for certain articles of Sterling Area origin. There is no export licensing, but the export of certain classes of goods is prohibited.

Labour

The principal legislation at present in force affecting labour conditions includes the following ordinances :—

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1937 (as amended by Ordinances 7 of 1939 and 13 of 1948) :
Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1942 :
Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance, 1942 :
Trade Disputes (Arbitration) Ordinance, 1949.

Land Tenure

Almost the whole of the Colony's land area is held in freehold. Leaseholds, where they exist, are granted for varying periods : rural land, 21 years ; suburban land, three years ; urban land, 60 years. Lands reserved to the Crown may be disposed of only with the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but may be leased to owners of adjoining lands for periods not exceeding three years. All mineral and sealing rights are reserved to the Crown, as is the right to re-enter upon and resume possession of any part, not exceeding one-twentieth of the whole, of any holding of land, for the purposes of constructing roads, etc. Land in the Dependencies is owned by the Government ; a few plots have been leased for use as whaling stations.

Immigration

The Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance, 1936, prohibits the entry of any person (*a*) not in possession of a passport valid for entry, (*b*) having previously left the Colony at the public expense, (*c*) having entered into any agreement to labour for hire in the Colony or whose passage has been paid on his behalf with a view to his entering into such an agreement on arrival unless the consent in writing of the Colonial Secretary to the immigration of such person has been obtained. Nevertheless, persons appearing to come within these categories may be allowed to enter under surety.

Communications and Transport

There are no roads in the Colony, except in the immediate vicinity of Stanley, and no railways. Communication between Stanley and the Camp is chiefly by horseback and/or by sea, and to a smaller extent by air.

An inter-insular mail, passenger, and cargo service is operated by the Falkland Islands Company's vessel—the m.v. " Fitzroy " (600 tons). The Government-operated m.v. " Philomel " is used mainly for transport of medical cases and for inter-island traffic. The Dependencies are served mainly by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey vessel, " John Biscoe " which operates there during the summer months. The Falkland Islands Company's vessel makes very occasional trips between Stanley and South Georgia, and whaling vessels call at South Georgia from time to time.

The principal obstacles to air communication in the Falklands are the prevalence of high winds and other weather hazards, together with a lack of forecasting facilities. The latter has been partially overcome by the extension of radio communications through the islands. Ground facilities for land aircraft are also difficult and expensive to provide away from the main base while the difficulty and cost of aircraft maintenance is enhanced by remoteness from major repair workshops and from sources of supply of spare parts, etc.

The Government Air Service in 1950 took over a Norseman and an Auster float plane on a hire basis from the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. A slipway and permanent hangar have been erected at Stanley, and a floating landing stage. Buoys have been fixed at most settlements where there is an abundance of relatively sheltered water. A full passenger-carrying service was operated from December, 1949, and was extended when the eight-passenger Norseman came into operation in the second quarter of 1950. Express freight and mail services are being extended and improved. During 1950, 480 hours were flown on 191 days of the year ; the number of passengers carried was 744 of whom 636 were private passengers and 108 on government account.

External communications are by the Falkland Islands Company's vessel, to Montevideo ; occasional calls are made also at Punta Arenas. The time taken to Montevideo is about five days.

There are two wireless stations for external traffic, at Stanley and at Grytviken (Cumberland Bay), South Georgia. A smaller station at Fox Bay is used for inter-island communications and R/T sets are installed at all farm settlements. Telephone services are in operation on East and West Falkland. Postal services include the air-letter form service to Commonwealth countries ; all mails travel by sea as far as Montevideo.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Of the total area of the Falklands, estimated at 2,955,520 acres, only some 80,000 acres remain in the possession of the Government. The land is held for the most part in very large units. Excluding Government lands and urban sites, there are only 30 estates in the colony, one of under 10 acres, one between 100 and 1,000 acres, and the remainder over 1,000 acres each. There are ten estates between 40,000 and 100,000 acres and four between 100,000 and 200,000 acres ; the estates of the Falkland Islands Company approximate to one million acres. These estates are devoted to the Colony's major activity, sheep-farming.

The islands possess extensive kelp beds, which developments in the uses of and demand for alginates might make economically workable, but which are not at present exploited.

Cultivation is restricted almost entirely to smallholdings worked by ranch employees and others on a part-time basis.

Food Crops

There is some production of oats for local consumption, and most householders cultivate their own kitchen gardens which provide an ample supply of the more common vegetables of European type. Red and white currants, gooseberries, and raspberries grow well but are cultivated only to a limited extent. Most fresh fruits are imported from Montevideo and are expensive. Present dependence on imported foodstuffs could be greatly diminished if full advantage were taken of the Islands' potentialities. Difficulty of transport is the principal obstacle to greater production of foodstuffs in the north-west islands where the climate is more favourable.

Digitized by Google

Livestock

Sheep rearing forms the principal economic activity of the Falkland Islands. Individual sheep runs vary greatly in size and carry from 8,000 to 35,000 sheep, very roughly one sheep per three to five acres. The methods used are traditional, deriving from those of British hill shepherds of a century ago. The shepherds go mounted on horseback : their duties include the freeing of sheep found bogged or cast on their backs, collection of carrion wool and skinning of sheep found freshly killed. The flocks are gathered in by teams of from four to ten men, for lamb-marking, shearing, dipping, and the removal of rams after mating. By tradition, breeding from gimmers (one-year-old females) is not practised. Wethers, ewes, gimmers, and hoggets are run in separate flocks, the number of wethers being kept at about six-sevenths that of the breeding ewes. At dipping, the sheep are culled, piners and sheep over eight or nine years of age being killed to keep flock numbers steady. The dead sheep are ploughed into the oatfields or other cultivated areas, or used for example, as food for fowls. Rendering down for the tallow was much practised formerly but continues now only at Darwin.

The sheep are reared primarily for their wool. This is of the crossbred type, somewhat coarser than Punta Arenas wools and ranging from 46's to 56's ; it is particularly suitable for high-grade hosiery, and commands a fair average price. Use of Merino, Corriedale, or Polworth rams to improve the fineness of the wool, leads to loss of frame and constitutional weakness, and thereby to increased losses in the Camp. The Romney strain, which predominates, appears best suited to local conditions. The hardy Darwin Lafonia sheep are of this type.

In the season 1949–50, the sheep population was distributed as follows :—

East Falkland	364,217
West Falkland	189,801
Islands	57,150
Total	611,168

Cattle are mainly kept in a semi-wild state to eat off the rough grazing and to supply beef and milk. Dairying, however, is little developed and imported dairy produce, including tinned milk, butter and cheese, is commonly used throughout the Colony. The few cattle which are kept to supply milk to Stanley are dependent to a large extent on fodder imported from South America. A few pigs only are kept, and some 5,000 head of poultry.

Stock returns for a number of years are summarised in the table below :—

LIVESTOCK, 1943–50

Year	*Sheep*	*Cattle*	*Horses*	*Pigs*
1943–44	627,779	11,226	3,211	35
1944–45	619,449	10,873	3,227	22
1945–46	611,723	11,205	3,087	4
1946–47	604,136	11,197	2,734	14
1947–48	618,627	10,725	2,810	10
1948–49	603,751	10,873	3,072	10
1949–50	611,168	11,138	3,043	35

Livestock diseases are relatively few and mild. There is no scab, lice, or fly-blowing among the sheep population, although the common bluebottle was accidentally introduced to the Islands a number of years ago. Foot-rot is unknown, and so also is gid, but round-, tape-, and lung-worms are present. Cattle are free from foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest, and there is little or no bovine tuberculosis ; no warble-fly or other insects injurious to hides exist. Actinomycis is present ; dentition is backward in all stock.

Livestock products exported comprise wool, hides and skins, and some tallow. The meat, up to the present time, is consumed locally, but a refrigeration project of the Colonial Development Corporation is scheduled for completion in early 1951 and this will initiate an export industry in meat.

Fisheries, Whaling, and Sealing

Although the Burwood Bank, 200 miles south of the Falklands, is believed to carry abundant reserves of fish, no fishing industry is based on the Falklands, and there is no regular fish supply to the town of Stanley.

A survey in 1948 showed that the Falkland Islands' seal herds, after an interval of some years, were again sufficient to allow of their exploitation, and the sealing industry was resuscitated in 1950, at Albemarle, West Falkland, under the direction of the Colonial Development Corporation in association with an experienced private operator (see below under " Development ").

Whaling and sealing are carried on mainly from bases in the Dependencies. The whaling area, in which whaling by modern methods was first introduced in 1904, became more productive than those of the rest of the world combined, but declined as pelagic whaling developed. The whaling season lasts for six months, from October to April, during which time the three whaling companies' permanent establishments on South Georgia are augmented by the fleets. The principal product of the industry is whale oil ; subsidiary products include guano, whale meat meal, and whale bone. Sealing takes place during the winter and spring and is confined to the surplus males of the immense herd of Elephant Seals, which has been nursed by the Administration with the support of the whaling companies and has increased continuously for many years. Sealing is carried on under a system of annual licences, and the coasts of the island are divided into four divisions of which only three are worked annually so that each division is rested one year in four. The following table shows production in recent years :—

WHALING AND SEALING, 1937–49

*Year/ Season**	*Whaling*			*Sealing*	
	Whales caught		*Guano, etc.*	*Seals caught*	
	numbers	*barrels*	*bags*	*numbers*	*barrels*
1937	1,759	81,089	80,378	6,000	12,295
1938	1,887	90,266	95,576	—	—
1939	1,675	111,291	101,436	...	...
1945	1,269	75,540	72,294	5,382	10,382
1946	1,913	78,880	92,186	4,449	8,075
1947	2,550	144,386	129,151	6,000	11,994
1948	2,949	163,651	137,173	7,500	15,093
1949	2,941	172,290	141,021	6,876	13,358

* In the case of whaling, the season ending in the April of the year shown.

The proportions of the different varieties of whales caught are given in the following table for some representative years :—

WHALE VARIETIES, 1936–1949

Year	*Fin*	*Blue*	*Humpback*	*Sei*	*Sperm*	*Total*
1936–37	1,552	97	40	155	43	1,887
1947–48	2,142	46	24	609	128	2,949
1948–49	1,922	226	18	562	213	2,941

Manufacturing and Village Industries

Apart from some ship-repairing, there are no industrial establishments other than those ancillary to the main industries of sheep-farming and, more especially, whaling and sealing.

Digitized by Google

In 1948, a Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers was formed, with the object of manufacturing and selling home-spun, -woven, and -knitted articles, and other hand-made goods such as eiderdowns, gloves, and slippers. The Guild's members and activities are mainly confined to Stanley.

Other Economic Activities

There is no tourist industry, but occasional visitors make a round trip from Montevideo in m.v. " Fitzroy ", returning there on the next voyage. There are three small hotels in Stanley, and comfortable lodgings can be obtained at reasonable charges.

The distributive trade is confined to three large and eight small traders in Stanley. Each camp station maintains its settlement store for the convenience of its employees. There is no Co-operative movement in the Islands.

Professional practice is almost entirely in Government Service, though the whaling companies have their own medical officers in the Dependencies. There are four Government-employed doctors and two nurses ; there is one dentist. There are five fully qualified teachers ; there is no lawyer.

Employment and Labour Supply

In recent years labour has been fully employed and in short supply. On the Islands, employment is chiefly in sheep-farming and in the Dependencies in whaling and sealing.

Although mostly non-tradesmen, the Islanders are very versatile ; most labourers are capable of butchering sheep and cattle, handling horses, building a house, and operating a ship. In 1950 in Stanley, the basic wage-rate for unskilled labourers was 1s. 4d. per hour ; the rates for skilled labourers and artisans were 1s. 6d. and 1s. 9d., respectively. A cost-of-living bonus of 4d. per hour is payable in addition. The standard working week is of 45 hours.

In the Camp, on sheep-farms, wages are calculated on a monthly basis, and include free quarters, fuel, meat, milk, and garden. Rates in 1950 were : general labourers £8 12s. 9d., shepherds £9 12s. 9d.

Recruitment for the whaling and sealing industries is overseas, mainly in Norway, on terms adopted by the whaling industry as a whole and published annually in the Norwegian Whaling Gazette. Average weekly hours during the whaling season—October to March—are about 54, and out of the season, 40. Quarters, heating, light, and food are provided and in addition to the basic wage there is a system of bonuses on production.

Fuel, Power and Water

The principal fuel on the Islands is peat, but a small quantity of coal is imported. The peat supply is much better in the East Island than in the West.

There are no streams worth exploitation as a source of power supply. Some of the farms generate current for domestic lighting by means of wind chargers. A 24-hour electricity supply at 220 volts A.C., is made available by Government in Stanley, the generators being driven by internal combustion engines. A more modern power house was constructed between 1948 and 1950.

The water supply to Stanley is in the charge of the Executive Engineer. It is wholesome but peat-stained. There are 325 houses in Stanley and 271 properties connected to the main water supply, which also sustains a system of water-borne sanitation in the town. Average daily consumption is about 25,000 gallons. A new high-level reservoir was brought into use in 1947 when total storage capacity was about 405,000 gallons. Some rain-water tanks are in use but their number is diminishing as the mains supply is taken increasingly into use.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The Colony and Dependencies of the Falkland Islands have no public debt. Assets and liabilities as at 31st December, 1949, were as follows :—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 1949

Assets	£	£
Cash Balances :		
Treasury	12,681	
Crown Agents	1,077	
		13,758
Investments (*at market value*) :		
Reserve Fund	8,217	
Provident Fund	21,431	
Land Sales Fund	215,160	
Marine Insurance Fund	4,461	
Savings Bank Fund	482,950	
Note Security Fund	52,874	
Town Hall Reconstruction Fund	20,624	
		807,335
Joint Colonial Fund		100,000
Farm and Building Loans		320
Advances		75,311
Remittances		50,194
		1,046,918

Liabilities	£	£
Deposits :		
Savings Bank	644,310	
Intestate Estates	290	
Note Security Fund	60,214	
Provident Fund	21,760	
Postal Monies	2,916	
Miscellaneous	8,524	
		738,013
Reserve Fund		9,881
Marine Insurance Fund		4,578
Workmen's Compensation Fund		2,208
Research and Development Fund		11,716
Town Hall Reconstruction Fund		21,262
Surplus :		
Land Sales Fund	268,737	
General Revenue Balance (Deficit)	−9,477	
		259,260
		1,046,918

The Colony and Dependencies received a regular grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury until 1880, and a special grant for a mail service until 1885, since when they have been self-supporting. Grants are, however, received under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act.

The accounts of the Colony and the Dependencies are kept separately, and the relevant financial years have recently been changed, that of the Colony now running from 1st April to 31st March, and that of the Dependencies now running from 1st July to 30th June. Revenue and expenditure are summarised below for the period from 1938 :—

Digitized by Google

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

Year	*Falkland Islands*		*Falkland Islands Dependencies*		*Falkland Islands with Dependencies*		
	Revenue(1)	*Expenditure*	*Revenue*	*Expenditure*(1)	*Revenue*(2)	*Expenditure*(2)	*Surplus* (+) *or Deficit* (—) (7)
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938	72,565	77,635	11,457	11,457	77,022	82,092	— 5,070
1939	61,906	74,568	13,738	13,738	69,073	81,735	— 12,662
1940	66,435	83,646	13,877	13,877	72,739	89,950	— 17,211
1941	71,539	74,114	8,255	14,865	74,794	83,979	— 9,185
1942	92,128	99,409	8,803	15,341	89,321	103,140	— 13,819
1943	91,454	96,855	10,503	14,355	91,419	100,672	— 9,253
1944	172,643	158,770	14,272	15,133	182,915	169,903	+ 13,012
1945	110,677	102,470	13,283	14,447	115,247	108,204	+ 7,043
1946	198,879	222,164	119,084	83,660	312,799	300,660	+ 12,139
1947	103,788	124,614	38,899	64,212	138,687	184,826	— 46,139
1948	148,934	162,694	80,818	16,905	219,752	169,599	+ 50,153
1949	169,810	163,911	140,615(3)	22,784(3)	...	...	...
1950	189,725(4)	186,734(4)	69,165(3)(5)	14,170(3)(5)	...	...	...
1950–51	—	—	129,806(4)	19,934(4)	...	...	...
1951–52	193,386(4)(6)	190,869(4)(6)	...	...	...	...	...

Notes

(1) Including Dependencies' contribution to Colonial Government.
(2) Excluding Dependencies' contribution to Colonial Government.
(3) Revised Estimates.
(4) Estimates.
(5) Six months only, 1st January to 31st June.
(6) Fifteen months, 1st January, 1951, to 31st March, 1952.
(7) Figures of revenue and expenditure include changes in the value of investments, so that surpluses or deficits shown are net of this item.

The figures of income and expenditure are classified below under the principal heads, for 1938 and for the period from 1949.

Head of Revenue or Expenditure	*Falkland Islands*							
	1938		1949		1950		1951–52	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
Revenue								
Customs	14,447	19·9	26,777	15·8	44,576	24·0	38,376	19·8
Import Duties	*7,203*	*9·9*	*11,244*	*6·6*	*14,950*	*8·1*	*18,750*	*9·7*
Export Duties	*7,244*	*10·0*	*15,533*	*9·1*	*29,626*	*16·0*	*19,626*	*10·1*
Internal Revenue	1,339	1·8	49,519	29·2	45,429	24·5	55,625	28·8
Income Tax	—	—	*15,882*	*9·4*	*16,300*	*8·8*	*14,000*	*7·2*
Company Tax	—	—	*32,780*	*19·3*	*27,500*	*14·8*	*40,000*	*20·7*
Other Taxes and Licences	*1,339*	*1·8*	*857*	*0·5*	*1,629*	*0·9*	*1,625*	*0·8*
Fees, Fines, Reimbursements	3,521	4·9	4,551	2·7	4,510	2·4	5,502	2·8
Harbour and Aviation	114	0·2	782	0·5	5,121	2·8	8,149	4·2
Interest	14,153	19·5	9,748	5·7	9,695	5·2	11,992	6·2
Miscellaneous	2,580	3·6	25,850	15·2	21,376	11·5	5,060	2·6
Posts and Telegraphs	18,510	25·5	33,677	19·8	14,340	7·7	25,472	13·2
Posts	*16,501*	*22·7*	*26,216*	*15·4*	*10,295*	*5·6*	*20,545*	*10·6*
Telegraphs	*2,009*	*2·8*	*7,461*	*4·4*	*4,045*	*2·2*	*4,927*	*2·5*
Electricity	839	1·2	4,161	2·5	4,500	2·5	5,400	2·8
Rents	1,128	1·6	1,560	0·9	1,450	0·8	1,785	0·9
Land Sales	8,934	12·3	212	0·1	211	0·1	211	0·1
Dependencies Contribution to Colonial Government	7,000	9·6	10,000	5·9	10,000	5·4	12,500	6·5
	72,565	100·0	166,838	98·2	161,208	86·9	170,072	87·9
Colonial Development and Welfare	—	—	2,973	1·8	24,283	13·1	23,314	12·1
Total	72,565	100·0	169,811	100·0	185,491†	100·0	193,386*	100·0
Expenditure								
Pensions	1,993	2·6	4,898	3·0	5,500	2·9	6,900	3·6
Defence	1,251	1·6	826	0·5	769	0·4	870	0·5
Law and Order	1,093	1·4	2,466	1·5	3,038	1·6	3,990	2·1
Administration	7,383	9·5	13,580	8·3	14,295	7·7	17,150	9·0
Agricultural	6,580	8·5	3,003	1·8	2,433	1·3	3,146	1·6
Medical	5,322	6·9	11,888	7·3	11,890	6·4	14,302	7·5
Education	2,834	3·7	7,757	4·7	10,832	5·8	11,235	5·9
Communications	1,012	1·3	5,900	3·6	7,828	4·2	11,561	6·1
Posts and Telegraphs	6,816	8·8	11,755	7·2	15,621	8·4	20,715	10·9
Public Works :								
Department	3,364	4·3	7,611	4·6	9,254	5·0	14,595	7·6
Recurrent	12,230	15·8	13,498	8·2	9,470	5·1	17,070	8·9
Miscellaneous	17,197	22·2	29,340	17·9	14,857	8·0	19,771	10·4
Extraordinary	10,560	13·6	30,583	18·7	36,764	19·7	26,250	13·8
	77,635	100·0	143,105	87·3	142,551	76·3	167,555	87·8
Colonial Development and Welfare	—		20,806	12·7	44,183	23·7	23,314	12·2
Total	77,635	100·0	163,912	100·0	186,734*	100·0	190,869*	100·0

* Estimates or Approved Estimates.
† Revised Estimates.

Digitized by Google

Head of Revenue or Expenditure	*Falkland Islands Dependencies*							
	1938		1949		1950		1950–51	
	£	%	£	%	£	%	£	%
Revenue								
Customs	8,875	77·5	96,100	68·3	43,752	63·3	86,870	66·9
Import Duties	*549*	*4·8*	*9,100*	*6·5*	*2,752*	*4·0*	*9,070*	*7·0*
Export Duties	*8,326*	*72·7*	*87,000*	*61·9*	*41,000*	*59·3*	*77,800*	*59·9*
Internal Revenue	511	4·5	34,945	24·9	21,035	30·4	30,950	23·8
Income Tax	—	—	*24,000*	*17·1*	*15,844*	*22·9*	*25,000*	*19·3*
Company Tax	—	—	*10,000*	*7·1*	*5,000*	*7·2*	*5,000*	*3·9*
Other Taxes and Licences	*511*	*4·5*	*945*	*0·7*	*191*	*0·3*	*950*	*0·7*
Fees, Fines, etc.	528	4·6	690	0·5	506	0·7	795	0·6
Harbour	200	1·7	220	0·2	170	0·2	220	0·2
Miscellaneous	841	7·3	4,910	3·5	951	1·4	7,220	5·6
Posts	—	—	2,000	1·4	1,000	1·4	2,000	1·5
Rents	502	4·4	1,750	1·2	1,751	2·5	1,751	1·3
	11,457	100·0	140,615†	100·0	69,165†	100·0	129,806*	100·0
Expenditure								
Administration and General	6,467	56·4	11,324	9·7	8,576	15·6	9,934	9·7
F.I.D.S. :								
H.Q. (Admin.) Stanley	—	—	13,612	11·7	7,506	13·7	7,821	7·6
H.Q. (Met. Services) Stanley	—	—	—	—	7,477	13·6	6,008	5·8
Rear Base	—	—	—	—	—	—	939	0·9
Bases	—	—	38,345	32·8	10,832	19·8	31,733	30·8
" John Biscoe "	—	—	41,554	35·6	15,233	27·8	36,379	35·4
A.K. " Penelope "	—	—	2,000	1·7	190	0·3	50	0·0
Contribution to Colonial Government	4,990	43·6	10,000	8·6	5,000	9·1	10,000	9·7
	11,457	100·0	116,835*	100·0	54,814*	100·0	102,864*	100·0

* Estimates or Approved Estimates.
† Revised Estimates.

Customs duties account for a large proportion of the ordinary revenue of the Colony and Dependencies ; import duties are more important in the Colony, while export duties, levied on whale and seal oil and on guano, are of substantially greater importance to the Dependencies. An outline of the customs tariff is given on page 106.

Income tax is levied on income in excess of £100, at rates rising from 1s. in the £ on the second £100 of income, to 3s. 6d. in the £ on income in excess of £950. Rates levied on the incomes of seasonal workers in the whaling and sealing industries, however, are lower, being four per cent. on the second £100 to 12½ per cent. on income in excess of £1,000. Company Tax is levied at the flat rate of 3s. 6d. per £ of chargeable income.

Local Government

Stanley Town Council, which is the only Local Authority, derives its revenue principally from the general and water rates. The services for which it is responsible, and which form the main heads of expenditure, are enumerated on page 105.

Currency and Banking

British coinage and Falklands Islands Notes are legal tender, the latter being issued in denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s. The total note circulation at the end of 1949 was £53,500.

There is no commercial banking system. The Government Savings Bank accepts deposits at 2½ per cent. per annum. Remittances, by individuals or firms, can be made through the Commissioner of Currency and the Crown Agents for the Colonies, at a charge of one per cent. A similar service is undertaken by the Falkland Islands Company and the Estate Louis Williams, who act as bankers and financial agents for the farms.

Private Investment

In the Colony there are two locally controlled companies, each having a nominal capital of £30,000, and six externally controlled companies having nominal capital ranging from £2,000 to £500,000 and totalling £1,028,000. There are three companies, all externally controlled, operating in the Dependencies—one British, one Argentinian, and one Norwegian, with nominal capital of £100,000, 200,000 gold pesos, and Kr. 3,840,000 respectively.

Cost of Living

The cost-of-living index formerly calculated for the Falkland Islands, on the base 1938 = 100, has been replaced by a new index, on the base 1948 = 100. The new index employs a revised system of weights more accurately reflecting post-war patterns of consumption.

The principal data for both index numbers are shown in the table below :—

COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS

Commodity-Group	*Old Index* (1938 = 100)		*New Index* (1948 = 100)	
	Weights	*Index* 1948	*Weights*	*Index* 1*st Jan.* 1951
(1) Foodstuffs	380	147·8	400	108·5
(2) Clothing	100	249·4	100	140·0
(3) Fuel and Light	75	113·4	72	106·9
(4) Household Durable Goods	85	261·9	50	150·8
(5) Miscellaneous Goods	50	177·2	40	105·6
(6) Drinks	55	219·0	50	116·2
(7) Tobacco	80	152·9	75	125·9
(8) Rent and Rates	110	100·0	190	101·2
(9) Services	55	100·0	23	100·0
	1,000	164	1,000	144

The new index is to be published twice annually, from 1st January, 1951 ; the figure at 1st July, 1951, was 120.

External Trade

The figures of retained imports and domestic exports for the Colony and Dependencies, are given in the table below, for the period from 1937 ; the figures are inclusive of bullion and specie, the amounts of which, however, are small.

Digitized by Google

EXTERNAL TRADE, 1937–1950

Year	Falkland Islands			Falkland Islands Dependencies			Falkland Islands and Dependencies		
	Retained Imports	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*	*Retained Imports*	*Domestic Exports*	*Export Surplus*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937	113,757	201,025	87,268	188,459	223,882	35,423	302,216	424,907	122,691
1938	111,426	198,610	87,184	61,547	251,551	190,004	172,973	450,161	277,188
1939	82,777	198,908	116,131	99,252	277,547	178,295	182,029	476,455	294,426
1940	146,477	199,381	52,904	228,418	475,627	247,209	374,895	675,008	300,113
1941	138,427	206,825	68,398	126,930	283,492	156,562	265,357	490,317	224,960
1942	139,457	199,548	60,091	84,374	189,904	105,530	223,831	389,452	165,621
1943	194,936	243,958	49,022	157,481	157,481	—	352,417	401,439	49,022
1944	170,897	218,350	47,453	267,432	356,006	88,574	438,329	574,356	136,027
1945	159,740	198,831	39,091	391,800	451,553	59,753	551,540	650,384	98,844
1946	187,071	259,425	72,354	516,449	786,340	269,821	703,520	1,045,765	342,245
1947	238,276	258,076	19,800	679,770	1,843,365	1,163,595	918,046	2,101,441	1,183,395
1948	280,377	308,549	28,172	1,186,564	3,043,432	1,856,868	1,466,941	3,351,981	1,885,040
1949	286,229	450,436	164,207	996,434	2,845,784	1,849,350	1,282,663	3,296,220	2,013,557
1950	325,132	565,787	240,655	1,673,579	2,315,632	642,053	1,998,711	2,881,419	882,708

As a consequence of the importance of pelagic whaling in the economy of the Dependencies, imports from the High Seas, mostly re-exported and forming the bulk of re-exports, are a very substantial proportion of total trade ; the figures are subject to large changes from year to year. Figures of re-exports are given below for some representative pre-war and post-war years :—

RE-EXPORTS, 1937–1950

Year	*Falkland Islands*	*Falkland Islands Dependencies*	*Falkland Islands with Dependencies*
	£	£	£
1937	—	182,764	182,764
1938	2,096	21,361	23,457
1939	1,090	194,342	195,432
1945	4,747	156,425	161,172
1946	34,488	207,629	242,117
1947	7,020	106,127	113,147
1948	12,835	856,771	869,606
1949	8,286	707,460	715,746
1950	3,240	4,260,714	4,263,954

The Colony imports most of its requirements of foodstuffs with the exception of meat and a limited amount of garden produce ; the Dependencies' requirements of foodstuffs are obtained almost entirely from overseas. Virtually all manufactured goods are imported.

In the following tables are shown the principal imports and exports of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies for the years 1938 and 1950 ; for 1950 the principal countries of origin and destination are shown also :—

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS 1938 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantty	1938				1950					
		Falkland Islands		Falkland Island Dependencies		Falkland Islands			Falkland Island Dependencies		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Quantity	Value (£)	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin, with Values in £000	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Origin, with Values in £000
Groceries and Provisions	...	...	23,431	...	7,917	...	42,692	...	...	113,954	
Corn and Fodder	Cwt.	...	2,278	...	302	5,871	4,051	Argentine (3·3), Uruguay (0·8)	1,544	1,389	Argentine (0·7), U.K. (0·5), Norway (0·2).
Fruit, Vegetables, and Seeds	,,	...	1,857	...	1,273	1,710	6,310	...	9,880	21,428	
Mineral Waters	Galls.	...	185	...	3	177	258	U.K. (all*)	—	—	—
Beer	,,	14,986	2,584	42	10	9,047	3,538	U.K. (all)	665	267	U.K. (0·16), Norway (0·6), Argentine (0·5).
Wines	,,	1,128	883	74	30	2,389	2,236	U.K. (0·7), S. Africa (0·6), Portugal (0·4).	55	88	Argentine (0·04), Spain (0·03),
Spirits	,,	4,727	4,007	151	92	5,627	4,306	U.K. (3·3), Brit. W. Indies (0·9), Portugal (0·1).	976	882	U.K. (0·4), Argentine (0·2), S. Africa (0·14).
Tobacco	Lb.	9,415	3,232	1,623	332	11,807	7,390	U.K. (all*)	17,761	12,420	U.K. (4·6), Norway (4·0), Uruguay (3·0), Sweden (0·6).
Coal and Coke	Tons					137	2,094	Uruguay (all*)	1,685	10,358	U.K. (5·5), Uruguay (3·5), Norway (1·4).
Fuel Oil	,,					—	—	—	107,383	843,992	Netherlands W. Indies (357), Saudi Arabia (231), Venezuela (79), Spain (62).
Gas Oil	Galls.	...	2,481	...	76,966	22,844	2,014	Uruguay (1·4), Brit. W. Indies (0·6).	262,320	9,629	Netherlands W. Indies (5·6), U.K. (4·0).
Kerosene						22,965	2,594	U.K. (1·5), Uruguay (1·1)	6,168	503	U.K. (0·4), Netherlands W. Indies (0·1).
Petrol	,,					58,896	7,040	Uruguay (6·8), U.K. (0·3)	6,920	814	Norway (0·4), U.K. (0·3), Netherlands W. Indies (0·1).
Lubricating Oil	,,	...	...	...	...	1,862	1,004	U.K. (0·9), Uruguay (0·1)	44,933	12,117	Norway (5·7), U.K. (5·3), Netherlands W. Indies (0·8), Uruguay (0·2).
Timber	...	...	14,347	...	616	...	28,053	Finland (12·0), Chile (7·6), U.K. (4·8), Sweden (3·6).	...	15,871	Norway (11·0), Uruguay (3·7), U.K. (0·7), U.S.A. (0·3), Argentine (0·1).
Empty Barrels and Drums	...	—	—	...	860	...	4,449	U.K. (all)	...	11,619	Denmark (9·9), Argentine (1·7)
Whale Oil	Tons	—	—	...	148,905	—	—	—	68,238	4,287,850	High Seas (all)
Other Whale Products	,,	—	—	...	2,810	—	—	—	4,851	126,902	High Seas (all)
Cement	Cwt.	...	...	...	...	16,264	9,877	U.K. (all)	11,880	7,120	U.K. (6·0), Denmark (1·1), Uruguay (0·1).
Apparel	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,130	U.K. (all*)	...	17,310	Argentine (8·0), U.K. (5·8), Norway (2·8), Uruguay (0·7).
Bags, Bagging and Sacking	Cwt.	...	1,419	...	4,594	613	10,172	India (8·3), U.K. (1·9)	4,506	21,472	U.K. (all).
Rope	,,	...	729	...	680	90	1,487	U.K. (all)	3,984	59,408	U.K. (45·4), Norway (10·1), Uruguay (3·8).
Hardware	...	...	18,498	...	16,510	...	101,048	U.K. (99·2), Uruguay (0·6), U.S.A. (0·6), Switzerland (0·3).	...	243,422	U.K. (117·9), U.S.A. (89·3), Norway (21·8), Uruguay (5·6), Germany (4·4), Sweden (2·8).
Ship's Fittings	...	...	634	...	2,208	...	352	U.K. (all)	...	60,873	Norway (42), U.K. (17·3), Denmark (0·9), Argentine (0·6).
Wire Fencing	...	...	1,780	—	—	...	11,969	U.K. (11·5), Chile (0·5)	...	87	U.K. (0·1), Norway ?
Chemicals	...	...	5,614	...	1,676	—	—	—	...	15,262	U.K. (5·6), Uruguay (5·0), Norway (4·5).
Paint	Cwt.	...	5,664	...	3,229	857	7,319	U.K. (6·8), Argentine (0·5)	1,371	10,882	U.K. (9·7), Norway (0·9), Argentine (0·2).
Animals not for Food	...	...	4,065	...	159	...	1,113	New Zealand (0·5), U.K. (0·3), Chile (0·2), Uruguay (0·1).	...	763	U.K. (0·4), S. Africa (0·4)
Other Articles	...	...	19,834	...	3,736	...	47,876	...	...	27,611	...
Total Imports		...	113,522	...	272,908	...	328,372		...	5,934,293	

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS 1938 AND 1950

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938				1950					
		Falkland Islands		Falkland Island Dependencies		Falkland Islands			Falkland Island Dependencies		
		Quantity	Value (£)	Quantity	Value (£)	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination, with Values in £000	Quantity	Value (£)	Principal Countries of Destination with Values in £000
Domestic Exports											
Live Sheep	Nos.	29,350	14,508	—	—	1,201	1,201	Chile (all)	—	—	—
Wool	Lb.	3,618,327	163,109	—	—	4,343,673	542,956	U.K. (all)	—	—	—
Sheepskins	Cwt.	...	18,606	—	—	3,251	17,101	U.K. (all)	—	—	—
Other Hides and Skins	,,	...	830	—	—	805	2,348	U.K. (all)	—	—	—
Tallow	,,	...	829	—	—	765	2,141	U.K. (all)	—	—	—
Whale Oil	Barrels	—	—	80,533	161,166	—	—	—	149,192	1,925,112	U.K. (1,852), Argentine (73)
Seal Oil	,,	—	—	11,857	23,714	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salted Liver	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	2,429	U.K. (all)
Whale Bone, Teeth, and Finners	,,	—	—	47	810	—	—	—	3·5	282	U.K. (all)
Bone Meal and Meat Meal	,,	—	—	...	23,875	—	—	—	15,338	387,423	U.K. (all)
Guano	Bags	—	—	64,973	39,532	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Articles	...	...	2,824	...	2,454	...	40	...	...	386	...
		...	200,706	...	251,551	...	565,787	...	...	2,315,632	...
Re-exports											
Fuel Oil	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,281	154,248	High Seas (all)
Whale Oil	Barrels	—	—	102,328	211,361	—	—	—	303,400	3,957,351	U.K. (all)
Whale Liver Oil	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	246	6,640	U.K. (all)
Whale Bone, Teeth, etc.	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	227	U.K. (all)
Meat Meal	Tons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	358	8,950	U.K. (all)
Guano	,,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,534	112,064	U.K. (all)
Hardware	...	...	442	...	2,320	—	—	—	—	19,752	Uruguay (10), U.K. (6·3), Argentine (3·5).
Empty Containers	Nos.	387	233	—	—	1,609	3,240	Uruguay (all)	1,736	1,482	Argentine (1·1), Uruguay (0·4)
Other Articles	...	...	665	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		...	1,340	...	213,681	...	3,240	...	...	4,260,714	...

Notes

— Nil.
... Not known or not available.
* Except for a very small amount.

Digitized by Google

During the post-war period the United Kingdom has remained the principal supplier of the Falkland Islands and the principal customer of both the Colony and the Dependencies. Among suppliers of the Dependencies, the United Kingdom ranked second in importance, the first place being taken by the Netherlands West Indies furnishing petroleum products for the use of the land stations and the whaling fleet.

Exports from the Falkland Islands, consisting mainly of wool, hides, and skins, have been directed almost entirely to the United Kingdom. Exports from the Dependencies, on the other hand, have generally been distributed somewhat more widely, but with large variations from year to year.

The direction of trade is analysed in greater detail in the tables below, for 1938 and 1950 :—

As from 7th October, 1950, export and import licensing regulations were amended, and the system now in force is as under :

Imports: An open general licence is granted for all articles produced in the United Kingdom, in the Dominions within the Sterling Area, and in British Colonial Territories, with the exception, however, of foodstuffs on the reserve commodity list.

Exports : (i) The export of wool, hides, and skins to the United Kingdom is permitted under open general licence. (ii) For the export to other destinations of wool, hides, or skins, specific export licences are necessary.

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, ANALYSED BY COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION, 1938 AND 1950

	Imports							
	Falkland Islands				*Falkland Island Dependencies*			
	1938		1950		1938		1950	
	£	per cent	£	per cent	£	per cent	£	per cent
United Kingdom	78,750	69·4	251,362	76·5	39,211	14·4	334,165	5·6
Other Commonwealth	4,072	3·6	15,227	4·6	24	0·0	13,050	0·2
Foreign Countries—								
Argentine	4,103	3·6	15,948	4·9	3,801	1·4	88,530	1·5
Chile	4,725	4·2	8,394	2·6	—	—	—	—
Finland	—	—	12,033	3·7	—	—	—	—
Netherlands W. Indies	—	—	—	—	57,127	20·9	363,586	6·1
Norway	32	0·0	150	0·0	17,840	6·5	185,215	3·1
Saudi Arabia	—	—	—	—	—	—	231,000	3·9
Spain	—	—	25	0·0	—	—	62,166	1·0
Sweden	10,333	9·1	3,819	1·2	32	0·0	2,979	0·1
United States of America	3,129	2·8	1,615	0·5	—	—	90,125	1·5
Uruguay	7,519	6·6	17,510	5·3	—	—	40,207	0·7
Venezuela	—	—	—	—	—	—	78,904	1·3
Other	859	0·8	2,289	0·7	3,158	1·2	21,630	0·4
	30,700	27·0	61,783	18·8	81,958	30·0	1,164,342	19·6
High Seas	—	—	—	—	151,715	55·6	4,422,736	74·7
	113,522	100·0	328,372	100·0	272,908	100·0	5,934,293	100·0

	Exports							
	Falkland Islands				*Falkland Island Dependencies*			
	1938		1950		1938		1950	
	£	per cent	£	per cent	£	per cent	£	per cent
United Kingdom	185,217	91·7	564,586	99·2	208,046	44·7	6,333,707	96·3
Other Commonwealth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Countries—								
Argentine	450	0·2	—	—	180	0·0	77,575	1·2
Canary Islands	—	—	—	—	16,700	3·6	—	—
Cape Verde Islands	—	—	—	—	29,360	6·3	—	—
Chile	15,711	7·8	1,201	0·2	—	—	—	—
Norway	—	—	—	—	36,220	7·8	—	—
Uruguay	668	0·3	3,240	0·6	—	—	10,816	0·2
	16,829	8·3	4,441	0·8	82,460	17·7	88,391	1·3
High Seas	—	—	—	—	174,726	37·6	154,248	2·4
	202,046	100·0	569,027	100·0	465,232	100·0	6,576,346	100·0
Re-exports	1,340	0·7	3,240	0·6	213,681	45·9	4,260,714	64·8

Digitized by Google

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

The Falkland Islands Ten Year Development Programme provides for expenditure on economic development and social welfare projects of a capital nature, amounting to almost £250,000, during the period 1947 to 1956. Of this amount, a sum of £150,000 has been allotted to the Falkland Islands from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, and the balance remains to be met out of the Colony's accumulated reserves, which are sufficient to do this while leaving a balance equivalent to between one and one-and-a-half years' revenue to meet contingencies.

Projects already completed, or substantially on the way to completion, include extensions to Government accommodation and living quarters and a new wireless station. A motor fishing vessel, suitably adapted, and two aircraft have been acquired for the purpose of inter-island communications, with priority for medical needs.

A new and larger Town Hall is under construction, financed partly by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant and partly from insurance claims, in replacement of the former Town Hall which was destroyed by fire. Other schemes include one for teacher training, in order to raise the standard of teaching, especially in the Camp, and one for the construction of a new infant school at Stanley. The largest single project contained in the programme, which is to be financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, is that for extension and modernisation of the King Edward VII Hospital at a cost of £35,000.

A modern power-house plant is in process of installation at Stanley, to replace that previously existing ; the scheme is expected to cost £27,500, of which half is being met from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Other projects include provision of an automatic telephone exchange, installation of radio-telephonic communications, provision of coastal lights to assist navigation, reconstruction of permanent roadway in Stanley, new settlement and senior schools, improvement of the water supply and extension of the waterborne sanitation system in Stanley, a new broadcasting transmitter and studio, playing fields, and a swimming bath. Many of these projects will be self-supporting when completed.

Other Development

The Colonial Development Corporation is undertaking two development projects of substantial importance to the economy of the Falkland Islands.

On East Falkland, the Corporation is establishing an abattoir and freezer to process some 30,000 mutton carcasses annually, rising eventually to 50,000 ; about 1,000 beef carcasses may also be processed each year. In this way it is hoped to salvage a vast number of carcasses which had formerly gone almost completely to waste, and by providing an economic outlet for good quality mutton (and beef) to encourage a changeover to stock-rearing for wool and mutton and not as at present for wool only. The scheme was initiated in 1949 with a capital of £242,000, and it was expected that the freezer would be completed by early 1951. Local labour shortage and difficulties in the shipping and landing of heavy stores and equipment have delayed progress, and costs have risen continuously. It is now anticipated that the scheme will be behind schedule, and that additional capital will be required. Nevertheless, construction of the abattoir and associated buildings and of prefabricated housing is well advanced and should be completed by January, 1952. Up to the end of 1950 expenditure on the project totalled £95,563, of which £79,326 was for erection of buildings and £9,155 for other fixed equipment.

The South Atlantic Sealing Company Limited was incorporated in the Falkland Islands on 26th October, 1949, with an authorised capital of £161,500, and is established at Albemarle on West Falkland. The capital is held by the Colonial Development Corporation, a small financial interest being retained by the manager of the concern. Two vessels, of 85 and 160 tons gross respectively, arrived in the Islands in November, 1949, and made their first catches in June, 1950. Construction of the processing factory was completed in July, 1950. Production was interrupted in September and October but continued thereafter for three months to the end of the season in January, 1951, after which work was undertaken on the improvement and extension of mechanical plant in preparation for the season beginning in April, 1951. Expenditure by the Company to the end of 1950 included £31,434 on vessels, £20,404 on plant and machinery, and £15,272 on factory buildings.

Digitized by Google

JAMAICA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Island of Jamaica lies in the Caribbean Sea between 17° 43′ and 18° 32′ North Latitude and 76° 11′ and 78° 2′ 50″ West Longitude, and is about 4,120 miles south-west of England and 90 miles south of Cuba. The island is approximately 144 miles long with a maximum width of 49 miles and is the largest in the British West Indies. The area of the island is often given as 4,404 square miles, but the figure now accepted is 4,411 square miles (2,823,174 acres). Kingston, the capital, is situated on the south-east coast on a fine harbour which has an area of 16 square miles.

Of the total area of the island over 90 per cent. is mountainous. A recent estimate of land rise gives the following breakdown : arable land 423,000 acres (including land used for tree crops), permanent pasture and meadow 595,000 acres, wood or forest land 500,000 acres, all other land 1,305,000 acres. The chief topographical features are : the interior mountain masses extending for about one-third the length of the island and rising to heights over 7,000 feet ; the elevated limestone plateau occupying over 80 per cent. of the area of the island and rising to 3,000 feet; the coastal cliffs which form the margin of the plateau ; and the low flat coastal plains lying between these cliffs and the sea. Plantation agriculture is mostly confined to the coastal plains and the inland basins in the limestone area.

There are many rivers and streams but few are navigable for any distance. The largest are the Black River in the south-west and the Rio Grande in the north-east. Many of the smaller streams in the limestone area are partly subterranean.

Some forest remains in parts of the mountainous areas but little elsewhere.

The temperature varies very little throughout the year, the mean annual temperature recorded over a number of years at Kingston (one of the hottest and driest parts of the island) being around 78° F., and varying between 75° in January and 81° in July. The highest temperature recorded in Kingston is 97·8° and the lowest 56·7°. Temperatures in the highest mountain areas, however, are often as low as 40–45°.

Average rainfall is around 77 inches, ranging from over 100 inches in the north-east to 30 inches in the mid-south. The year can be divided roughly into the wet or summer season May–November and the dry or winter season December–April, average monthly rainfall for the island being 3·1 inches in February and 11·3 inches in October. Relative humidity is high, ranging from 75–80 per cent. of saturation in Kingston, while in the rainy month and wetter districts it approaches saturation. The mean daily number of hours of sunshine in Kingston is around seven, the sunniest months being March and April and the least sunny September and October.

The prevailing winds are north-east in the mornings and south-east in the afternoons practically throughout the year. During the winter season an occasional burst of " polar " air reaches the island, at which time the lowest minimum temperatures are recorded and considerable damage to crops often results. Jamaica lies in the hurricane and earthquake belt, but in the last 300 years only 37 hurricanes and two severe earthquakes have been experienced. The hurricane of 1951 was a particularly severe one.

The rise and fall of tides does not exceed 16 inches and in Kingston Harbour is only 8 inches.

Population

The population recorded at the latest census (4th January, 1943), was 1,237,063, and the estimated population at the end of 1951 was 1,443,669.

The distribution of the population by " racial " groups at the time of the census was :—

POPULATION BY RACIAL GROUPS, 1943

Racial group	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Proportion of total*
				Per cent
Black (African) ..	965,960	472,348	493,612	78·10
Coloured (European-African)	216,348	98,272	118,076	17·49
White (European) ..	13,809	6,288	7,521	1·12
East Indian	21,393	10,927	10,466	1·73
East Indian Coloured	5,114	2,478	2,636	·41
Syrian	834	455	379	·07
Syrian Coloured ..	171	82	89	·01
Chinese	6,879	4,338	2,541	·56
Chinese Coloured ..	5,515	2,584	2,931	·44
Others	848	390	458	·07
Not stated	192	105	87	—
Total	1,237,063	598,267	638,796	100·00

Kingston is the only city in Jamaica, the population of the Kingston St. Andrew corporate area being 237,202 at the time of the census and estimated at approximately 266,000 in 1949. The only other towns of any size are Spanish Town (12,008 (census)) and Montego Bay (11,547 (census)). Small towns of less than 10,000 inhabitants at the date of the census include Port Antonio (5,482), May Pen (6,038) and Mandeville (2,110).

The census showed that there had been a fall in the proportion of rural population to total population from 88 per cent. in 1921 to 82 per cent. in 1943 (and estimates based on the census showed that at the same time an even steeper decline had occurred in the proportion of agricultural population to total population.)

The numbers of persons of working age and of children and old persons as estimated at mid-year 1949 was :—

ESTIMATED POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS, 1949
(000)

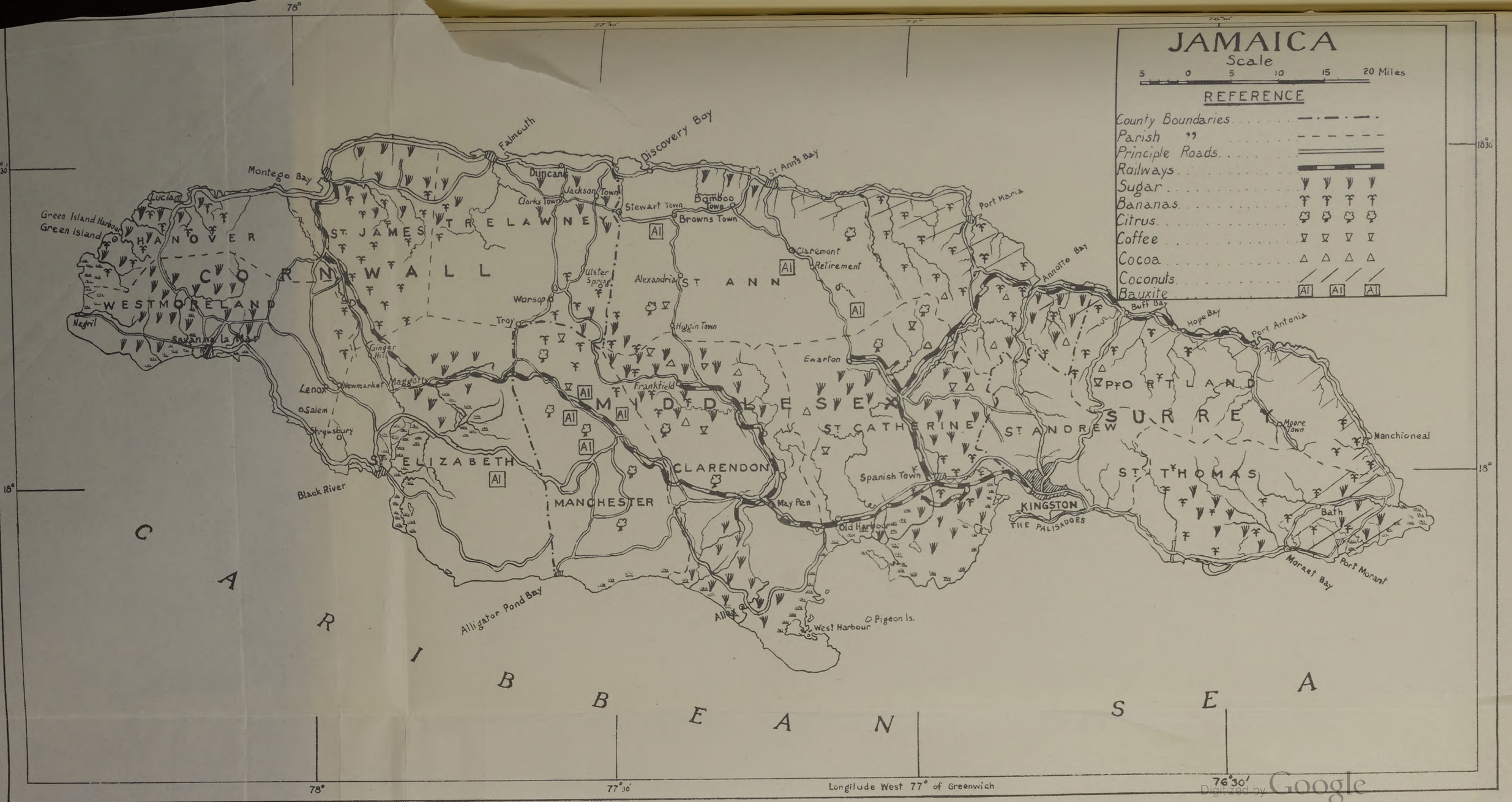
Age group and age in years	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Proportion of total*
0–4 ..	182·8	91·6	91·2	13·3
5–14 ..	311·6	155·9	155·7	22·7
15–44 ..	643·4	310·4	333·0	46·8
45–64 ..	182·6	87·4	95·2	13·3
65 and over	53·8	22·1	31·7	3·9
	1,374·2	667·4	706·8	100·0

The population recorded at the four Censuses was :—

	1891	1911	1921	1943
Males	305,948	397,439	401,973	598,261
Females	333,543	433,844	456,145	638,796
Total	639,491	831,383	858,118	1,237,063
Average annual increase since previous census	Per cent 1·01	Per cent 1·50	Per cent 0·32	Per cent 2·00

The falling off in the rate of increase between 1911 and 1921 was largely the result of emigration ; increasing immigration in the subsequent intercensal period contributed

Digitized by Google



Crown Copyright Reserved (facing Page 116)

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

to the following rise in the rate, although the rate of natural increase was also rising as the following figures show :—

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND RATES OF NATURAL INCREASE

Per 1,000 mean population

	Crude Birth Rate	*Crude Death Rate*	*Natural Increase*
1921–25	36·5	23·51	12·99
1926–30	36·43	19·56	16·86
1931–35	33·44	18·26	15·18
1936–40	32·14	16·10	16·04
1941–45	31·76	14·54	17·22
1946	30·76	13·30	17·45
1947	32·60	14·14	18·46
1948	30·92	13·25	17·67
1949	31·93	12·19	19·74
1950	33·06	11·82	21·24

The birth rate in Jamaica over this period, unlike a number of other West Indian colonies, showed a tendency to decline, the rise in natural increase being predominantly due to the continued fall in death rates.

There has been a steady decline in infant mortality over the period :—

INFANT MORTALITY

1921–5	1926–30	1931–5	1936–40	1941–5	1948	1949	1950
176·1	160·0	142·7	122·2	99·3	86·7	80·7	78·5

With a history of fairly steady growth, of a slowly declining fertility and steady decline in mortality the population of Jamaica is comparatively " old " compared with most of the other British West Indian colonies and its future growth will therefore be slower.

The decade 1911–21 was characterised by a net outward migratory movement, mostly to Cuba, whereas in the period 1922–43 the net movement was inwards, representing mainly the return of Jamaicans who had gone abroad to work. Only two per cent. of the population recorded at the census were foreign-born, and many of them were children of returned emigrants (especially those born in Cuba and Panama). The principal places of birth of the population born outside Jamaica, but resident in Jamaica in 1943, were :—

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION, 1943

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Cuba	3,284	3,429	6,713
Panama	1,560	1,857	3,417
China	1,991	561	2,552
India	1,371	874	2,245
British Isles	1,064	999	2,063
*British West Indies	935	628	1,563
United States of America	678	732	1,410
All other	2,716	3,146	5,862
Total	13,599	12,226	25,825

* Including British Guiana and British Honduras.

Since 1943 the net movement has been outward as the following figures show :—

Year ending December	*Net Emigration*	*Net Immigration*
1943	2,467	—
1944	13,628	—
1945	—	4,587
1946	—	2,337
1947	—	1,840
1948	2,135	—
1949	318	—
1950 (provisional)	1,711	—

The Censuses of 1921 and 1943 give the following figures for gainfully occupied population :—

GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION

	Gainfully occupied population		*Gainfully occupied as proportion of population aged 15 and over*	
	1943	1921	1943	1921
Males	321,637	223,984	86·6	96·1
Females	183,455	219,137	44·4	76·3
Total	505,092	443,121	64·4	85·1

In addition there were 14,922 males and 30,606 females seeking a first job.

The principal industries in which the working population was engaged are shown in the Table below. Agriculture is by far the most important industry group, accounting for 43·83 per cent. of the total.

GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION BY INDUSTRY GROUPS

Industry group	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Proportion of total*
Agriculture	221,376	176,180	45,196	43·83
Quarrying, fishing, and forestry	7,245	6,816	429	1·43
Manufacture and repair	60,483	35,107	25,376	11·97
Construction	34,149	30,598	3,551	6·76
Transport and communication	11,429	10,821	608	2·26
Trade and finance	39,457	16,685	22,772	7·81
Professional service (incl. business and recreational)	10,973	4,462	6,511	2·17
Public administration (incl. armed forces and police)	10,130	8,201	1,929	2·01
Domestic service	71,295	8,213	63,082	14·12
Other personal service	10,043	2,389	7,654	1·99
Unspecified	28,512	22,165	6,347	5·65
Total	505,092	321,637	183,455	100·00

Digitized by Google

A more detailed breakdown of these groups follows :—

PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN WHICH GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION WAS ENGAGED, 1943

Industry	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Agriculture	*221,376*	*176,180*	*45,196*
Banana growing	28,200	22,557	5,643
Cane farming	39,288	28,305	10,983
Coconut planting	3,457	2,677	780
Mixed farming	128,703	105,385	23,318
All other	21,728	17,256	4,472
Quarrying	617	190	427
Fishing	4,290	4,290	—
Forestry	2,338	2,336	2
Manufacturing	*60,483*	*35,107*	*25,376*
Electricity, water and gas	1,254	1,180	74
Baker products and confectionery	2,629	2,174	455
Sugar refining	5,800	5,045	755
Baskets, hampers, hats, mats and rugs	3,430	592	2,838
Tobacco, cigars, cigarettes	892	475	417
Shoe repair	5,739	5,730	9
Clothing	25,563	6,430	19,033
Furniture	2,680	2,651	29
Printing and photography	958	796	162
Sawmilling, boxmaking	1,257	1,244	13
Motor and bicycle repair	2,300	2,267	33
Other iron products and repair	2,343	2,327	16
Charcoal	582	516	66
Buildings	15,789	15,745	44
All other manufacture	5,156	3,680	1,476
Construction	*34,149*	*30,598*	*3,551*
Road Construction	9,868	7,169	2,699
Other construction	8,492	7,684	808
Transportation and Communication	*11,429*	*10,821*	*608*
Road	4,066	4,033	33
Railway and tramway	2,578	2,411	167
Water	4,220	3,945	275
Other	565	432	133
Trade and Finance	*39,457*	*16,685*	*22,772*
Retail	35,205	13,598	21,607
Wholesale	3,335	2,499	836
Finance	917	588	329
Business and recreational service	1,139	925	214
Professional Service	*9,834*	*3,537*	*6,297*
Education	4,360	1,205	3,155
Health	3,202	974	2,228
Law	710	285	425
Religion	941	670	271
Other	621	403	218
Public Administration (incl. Armed Forces and Police)	10,130	8,201	1,929
Domestic service	71,295	8,213	63,082
Other personal service	10,043	2,389	7,654
Unspecified (incl. odd jobs)	28,512	22,165	6,347
Total gainfully occupied	505,092	321,637	183,455

The principal occupations (as distinct from industry) of the gainfully occupied population in 1943 and a comparison with the previous census of 1921 are set out in the next table.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS OF GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION, 1921 AND 1943

Occupation	Males		Females	
	1943	1921	1943	1921
Agricultural	*173,167*	*158,240*	*44,904*	*125,442*
Farmer, planter, proprietor	80,311	88,171	13,406	42,990
Foreman, manager, overseer	2,397	1,983	13	17
Farm labour	*90,459*	*68,086*	*31,485*	*82,435*
Sugar cultivation	22,999	15,202	10,639	15,684
Banana cultivation	17,195	12,462	5,233	9,053
All other	50,265	29,210	15,613	29,733
Unpaid assistant	(16,452)*	11,212	(4,539)*	27,965
Quarrying	188	—	418	—
Fishing	4,287	2,834	—	59
Forestry	701	127	—	11
Manufacturing, mechanical and construction	*49,847*	*31,297*	*22,886*	*27,177*
Baker, confectioner	1,473	2,163	204	979
Blacksmith, wheelwright	845	1,299	—	—
Bootmaker, shoemaker	5,205	3,004	7	11
Butcher	242	1,022	—	16
Cabinet maker	1,803	188	—	—
Cooper	364	645	—	—
Dressmaker, milliner	7	4	17,200	23,332
Mechanic, fitter, repairman	3,930	1,495	—	—
Printer, bookbinder	461	208	76	71
Tailor	5,698	3,028	7	34
Wood sawyer	2,534	1,450	—	1
Straw weaver, basket maker	919	567	2,869	2,045
Other workshop tradesman	2,449	2,244	54	33
Other manufacturing worker	1,888	634	1,014	331
Bricklayer, stone mason	2,952	2,041	—	1
Carpenter, joiner	11,371	8,054	—	2
Electrician, wireman	604	92	—	—
Painter, decorator, glazier	1,531	719	—	2
Plumber and pipefitter	610	109	—	—
Other construction tradesman	1,035	269	—	—
Apprentice	3,926	2,062	1,455	319
Transport and communication	*9,868*	*6,448*	*1,454*	*446*
Motor vehicle driver	3,519	1,339	—	2
Teamster, drayman, carriage driver	2,150	1,859	7	1
Longshoreman, stevedore	1,312	165	3	—
Seaman, boatman, ship's officer, pilot	756	1,762	—	5
Railwayman, tramwayman	959	703	—	—
Telegraphist, telephonist	93	88	183	137
Messenger	533	178	1,237	293
Other transport occupations	546	354	24	8
Trade and finance	*13,922*	*5,089*	*21,237*	*5,278*
Merchant, shopkeeper, dealer	5,908	3,682	1,412	1,120
Hawker, higgler, pedlar	3,564	341	16,845	3,700
Salesperson in shop	3,259	687	2,614	397
Other (including finance)	1,191	379	366	61
Professional service	*3,542*	*2,782*	*4,447*	*2,882*
Religious occupations	631	465	219	94
Medical, etc., service occupations	510	551	1,179	1,128
Educational service occupations	1,081	913	2,817	1,600
Legal occupations	202	168	—	6
Other professional occupations	1,118	685	232	54
Public service	*4,195*	*3,622*	*356*	*361*
Armed forces	372	1,075	—	—
Police, prisons, fire stations	2,564	1,438	—	9
Postal service occupations	274	105	298	240
Other public service occupations	985	1,004	58	112
Personal and recreational service	*12,737*	*8,297*	*72,085*	*55,437*
Proprietor of hotel, cafe or boarding house	316	120	661	435
Barber, hairdresser, manicurist	562	144	487	15
Laundry and cleaning worker	518	36	4,284	9,544
Cook	419	—	1,036	—
Domestic servant, n.e.s.	7,776	7,512	62,792	42,532
Guard, caretaker, housekeeper	1,279	434	359	1,845
Nurse	—	—	625	1,063
Waiter, waitress	650	..	1,367	..
Other personal service occupations	1,217	51	474	3
Clerical occupations	*5,725*	*2,916*	*3,252*	*1,578*
Accountant, book-keeper, cashier	1,112	231	356	25
Clerk	4,551	2,650	1,293	1,049
Typist	62	35	1,603	504
Labourer, general (not in agriculture)	43,458	2,332(†)	12,416	466(†)
Total gainfully occupied	321,627	233,984	183,455	219,137

* Already included among the farm labourers.

(†) Incomplete, as all general labourers outside Kingston were classed as agricultural labourers.

Digitized by Google

The most striking feature of this table is perhaps the fall in the number of women described as farm labourers, resulting in a decrease in the total number of farm labourers, in spite of an increase in male farm labourers. Even when allowance is made for the change in classification (footnote (*b*)) the numbers of female wage-earners in agriculture and the total numbers of all wage-earners in agriculture must have been considerably less in 1943 than 1921. This trend has been evident in most West Indian colonies for some time, reflecting the fact that agriculture is not only incapable of helping to absorb the increasing population, but is actually requiring less manpower as a result of increasing mechanisation.

The most significant increases in the period 1921–43 have occurred in the numbers employed in domestic service and in petty trading (nearly 15 per cent. of the gainfully occupied population was in domestic service in 1943). Although the numbers in domestic service in 1943 may be inflated to some extent, by the inclusion of unpaid helpers not included in 1921, it seems probable, considering that the corporate area grew from 63,000 to 202,000 in the period, that the growth in urban employment opportunities must have been principally in domestic service and selling occupations. The expansion in factory employment in the period was relatively small.

The following table shows the numbers of persons in each industry who were wage-earners, workers on own account, employers, etc.

Social Amenities

Education

The census of 1943 showed that approximately 24 per cent. of the population over ten could neither read nor write. The proportion in the 1921 census was 34 per cent. Jamaica has suffered for some time from a shortage of schools. It is estimated that in 1946 there was a deficiency of 75,000 places. Since 1945 the Government has been concentrating on the building of new primary schools and the reconditioning of old ones, but school accommodation still lags behind the demands of the growing school population. Attendance at school is not compulsory except in the towns and for accommodation and economic reasons is not strictly enforced anywhere.

ENROLMENT IN VARIOUS TYPES OF SCHOOL AND ESTIMATED POPULATION OF SCHOOL AGE IN RECENT YEARS IS SHOWN BELOW:—

	Estimated School age population (approx.) 7–15 years	*Enrolment*		*Other Schools*	*Total Pupils all schools*
		Primary No. of pupils enrolled	*Secondary No. of pupils enrolled*	*(Technical Training Centres, etc.), No. of pupils enrolled*	
1947	259,000	185,683	4,541	2,702	192,926
1948	264,000	186,136	4,761	3,573	194,470
1949	269,000	196,348	5,340	3,957	205,645
1950	274,000	208,592	5,217	3,570	217,379

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF GAINFULLY-OCCUPIED POPULATION, 1943

Occupational group	*Total*	*Employers*	*Own Account workers*	*Wage earners and unpaid helpers*		
				Unpaid helpers	*Wage earners at work**	*Not at work**
Males						
Agriculture	173,167	16,288	64,023	16,452	50,979	25,425
Quarrying	188	—	57	1	95	35
Fishing	4,287	22	3,908	40	251	66
Forestry	701	4	47	1	456	193
Manufacturing and mechanical	30,463	368	14,663	2,153	9,560	3,719
Construction	19,384	243	5,536	1,020	7,081	5,504
Transport and communication	9,868	55	1,127	24	5,733	2,929
Trade and finance	13,922	796	8,550	201	3,716	659
Professional service	3,542	42	1,289	31	1,994	186
Public service	4,195	—	2	—	4,048	145
Personal and recreational service	12,737	91	1,116	1,323	8,535	1,672
Clerical occupations	5,725	4	48	27	4,934	712
Labourers	43,458	—	—	56	26,508	16,894
Total	321,637	17,913	100,366	21,329	123,890	58,139
Females						
Agriculture	44,904	2,645	10,761	4,539	15,178	11,781
Quarrying	418	—	123	—	156	139
Manufacturing and mechanical	22,886	66	18,731	1,442	2,066	581
Transport and communication	1,454	—	8	7	1,281	158
Trade and finance	21,237	85	18,156	298	2,338	360
Professional service	4,447	8	707	296	3,215	221
Public service	356	—	—	—	342	14
Personal and recreational service	72,085	51	4,415	19,646	36,029	11,944
Clerical occupations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Labourers	3,252	—	7	36	2,932	277
Total	183,455	2,855	52,908	26,282	70,568	30,842

* During the week ending 12th December, 1942.

The census of 1943 revealed a very large number of persons not at work. There were 58,139 males and 30,842 females who were normally wage-earners and who were not at work, this representing 32·0 per cent. of all male wage-earners and 30·4 per cent. of females, the worst group for males being the construction occupations and the worst for females being the agricultural occupations. If to the unemployed wage-earners be added the number of young persons seeking a first job, the unemployed labour force becomes 139,499—78,051 males and 61,448 females—which is equivalent to 25·1 per cent. of the total labour force (inclusive of the same young persons).

The number of teachers employed in 1950 was 4,555, of whom all but 130 were Jamaicans. Most of these teachers were in elementary schools. Primary education is provided in 684 Government and grant-aided elementary schools, the latter owned mainly by religious organisations. The Government pay all teachers' salaries, and grants-in-aid are given to the non-government schools of up to 75 per cent. of the cost of new buildings and repairs.

The age of entry is seven and the leaving age 15 years. It is estimated that some 72 per cent. of these age groups are enrolled in primary schools.

Digitized by Google

The curriculum includes English, Arithmetic, Religious Instruction, History, Geography, Music, Handwork and Physical Training (including Hygiene). For children over 11 elementary science and civics are included in the curriculum together with practical gardening and domestic science.

There are 29 infant schools and departments for children under seven and there are a few infant centres, but further expansion in these facilities must wait until the shortage of elementary schools is overcome.

Of the 26 grant-aided secondary schools ten are Trust, two Government and 12 Denominational Schools. There are also a number of private schools. The larger schools give instruction up to the Cambridge Higher Schools Certificate Standard. All secondary schools are fee-charging institutions. There were 852 scholarship holders in secondary schools in 1949.

Jamaica has one Technical School with a total enrolment of over 1,000. Day and evening classes are held in Building Construction, Engineering, Domestic Science, Commercial subjects, etc. The demand for technical education exceeds the number of places provided and plans have been prepared for extending these facilities.

Since 1936 a number of Practical Training Centres have been established, all in rural centres. Training is mostly in agriculture and allied crafts for boys and home-economics and dairying for girls. They cater for boys and girls from 15–20, providing a two- or three-year course. There were in 1950 three boys' centres catering for about 350 pupils and one girls' centre with about 60 pupils.

There are four Government-owned or aided Teacher Training Colleges with an enrolment of around 300. Most of the training is for teaching in elementary schools.

The University College of the West Indies was opened near Kingston in 1948. In that year it admitted medical students and in 1949 science students. In 1950 arts courses were commenced. The total enrolment in 1950 was 143. A few exhibitions are financed by the Jamaican Government and the University gives a few scholarships open to entrants from all British Caribbean territories. Most students go abroad either to the United Kingdom or to North America for university training.

The main agency in the field of adult education is the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission, an organization established and maintained by the Government for the improvement of village life. Recent campaigns undertaken by this organization have been concerned with improving methods of cultivation and nutrition, the encouragement of thrift and co-operation, and an attack on illiteracy.

Formal adult education facilities are limited, being almost entirely confined to Kingston where nearly 600 students are enrolled at evening classes in the Technical School. There is believed to be a great demand for adult education and the Extra-Mural Department of the University College has recently begun courses of lectures in several towns. The Education Department hopes to open Evening Institutes when funds permit.

Health

Causes of ill health in Jamaica are those common to all tropical countries whose economic resources are lower than that necessary to maintain the majority of the population at or above a subsistence level. They include diseases to which malnutrition and overcrowded and insanitary living conditions are predisposing or contributory causes. The principal diseases are : Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Malaria, Typhoid Fever, Yaws and the Venereal Diseases.

Statistics of the incidence of diseases are confined to cases treated in Government hospitals, clinics, dispensaries and other institutions, and the cases notified under the Communicable Diseases Law.

Hospitals reported over 17,000 cases of Malaria in 1950 and new cases of Venereal Diseases treated at clinics average around 20,000 a year. About 1,000 cases of Tuberculosis are notified annually.

The number of certified deaths and the death rates from leading causes show only slight variation in recent years.

Medical care of the sick is provided in the following government institutions, which are equipped with private rooms as well as public wards :—

21	General Hospitals	2,510 beds
1	Tuberculosis Sanatorium ..	222 ,,
1	Tuberculosis Hospital	200 ,,
1	Mental Hospital	2,525 ,,
1	Hansen Institute (Lepers) ..	169 ,,
1	Maternity Hospital	120 ,,

The first Health Centre was opened at the end of 1949 with four beds for temporary patients. Two centres have been opened on sugar estates by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Board.

Of the 342 medical practitioners registered in the colony, 150 are wholly or partly employed by Government.

Organised effort for the control of pulmonary tuberculosis in Jamaica dates from 1927 when, with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, a Tuberculosis Dispensary was established in the city of Kingston. The Jamaica Anti-Tuberculosis League was also founded in that year. At the present time the control of pulmonary tuberculosis is undertaken in a number of clinics and sanatoria and there is also a mobile X-ray unit. A Tuberculosis (Medical) Officer is in charge of the total programme in the field. Medical Officers of Health in their local health departments are responsible for the tuberculosis work in their respective parishes. This organised effort for the control of pulmonary tuberculosis has achieved some success as evidenced by a fall in the death rate, an initial rise in the recorded case rate (as a response to the campaign) and a subsequent fall.

Anti-malarial measures were first employed on a large scale in 1929 by the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation following a survey of the coast-line belt of the Island in 1928 and control measures have continued unremittingly since that time with increasing expenditure and effectiveness. The tendency at the present time is to institute permanent works for the control of malaria rather than to rely on temporary and frequently recurring measures in seasons of greatest incidence. Permanent works have included vertical drainage of ponds, surface and sub-surface horizontal drainage, reclamation of swamp lands by drainage, river training, salinization, seaheads and installation of automatic tidal traps. Spraying with larvicides and D.D.T. has also been undertaken. A Research Branch in Malaria has been established.

Improvement in the general health of the population cannot go above a certain level without an all round improvement in social and economic conditions. The incidence of malnutrition and of diseases wholly or partly due to lowered vitality among patients admitted to hospitals would seem to indicate that the health status of the population has reached a plateau, the level of which has not varied in spite of increased treatment facilities, health education and awakened interest on the part of the people.

Housing

In the urban areas the poorer people live mostly in rented accommodation ; in the rural areas smallholders own their homes, which range from shacks with mud walls to wooden or concrete cottages. On the sugar estates many families live in tenements and barracks. Recently the Sugar Welfare Board has agreed to help finance the building of two-room cottages to replace barracks from the Labour Welfare Fund built up by the industry.

Overcrowding is a serious problem, especially in the towns. The Census of 1943 showed that 22·8 per cent. of the population living in dwellings occupied living quarters with a floor area of less than 100 sq. ft., there being an average of 2·8 persons in these living quarters. As much as 63 per cent. of the population were living in dwellings not exceeding 200 sq. ft. Half the dwellings throughout the island, and 80 per cent. in Kingston, had only one room, and the average dwelling had 3·8 occupants. It is estimated that 100,000 of the 325,000

Digitized by Google

dwellings in the island are so poor as to require urgent replacement, and that 5,000 annually are needed for the growth in population.

Regulations are in force controlling the proper development of land for building purposes. All subdivisions have to be approved by the appropriate local authorities. (See also section on Town Planning, below.)

There are no density regulations. The densities in Government housing schemes vary with the needs and conditions of the particular scheme. Recently government accommodation has been provided on a basis of eight four-family units or 32 " houses " per acre.

Building operations are controlled by law in the Corporate area and principal towns. The regulations require approval of all new building, alterations, etc., and describe the range of materials which may be used, types of foundation, space between buildings, minimum floor area of dwelling, etc.

Facilities in existing tenements are inadequate and poor. Efforts are being made to get a minimum of one sewer, one shower, one kitchen and one laundry tub for every four rooms. In Government housing schemes separate conveniences of this type are provided for each family unit.

Rents, in the case of Government houses, ranged from 8s. to 12s. per room per month in 1949 and in temporary dwellings (which are much below this standard) 6s. per room per month. Rents of Government houses are subsidised, and as a result of the rise in building costs and the necessity to keep rents from rising, subsidies in urban areas are now almost equivalent to the rent paid by the tenant, but many families are unable to pay even these subsidised rents.

Rents of non-government dwellings are double the figures quoted above for Government housing. Rents naturally vary greatly but range from £3–6 per month for two-bedroom houses to £20–30 per month for houses of three to four bedrooms.

In the lower rental houses, which are slightly better than tenements, three or more families usually reside and share the conveniences. The Rent Restriction Act of 1944, which operates in 12 districts, has prevented unauthorised increases above the standard rent as at 1st January, 1941 and the operation of the Act was extended in 1949 for another three years (see page 124).

Prior to 1937 housing was not one of the government's functions. The cardinal points in the Government Housing Programme can be summarised as :—

The acquisition of land and the building of new houses for rent and sale ; the making of grants and loans to owner-occupiers ; the clearing of slum areas ; the fixing of minimum standards of accommodation ; research into design, building materials, etc. To begin with all assistance will be restricted to the provision of working class dwellings. The Slum Clearance and Housing Law of 1939 gives power to carry out slum clearance and improvement schemes for the working class. Prior to that £100,000 was raised in 1936 and spent on five major schemes in Kingston. Further assistance of £500,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds has enabled the scheme to proceed.

The main features of the housing programme, which now forms part of the Colony's Ten Year Plan, are :—

	Total Expenditure £	*Expenditure* 1946–50 £
Housing Schemes ..	1,000,000	505,958
Post—(1946)—Hurricane Housing	50,000	50,000
Assistance to owner occupiers	400,000	
Slum Clearance	500,000	—
Town Planning Officer ..	5,300	4,449
Central Housing authority	83,500	25,283

It was proposed that the scheme be financed from loans to the extent of £1,268,000, from Colonial Development and Welfare funds £687,300, and from General Revenue, but revision of the Development Plan is now under consideration and departures from the original plan will probably be necessary following the hurricane of 1951.

A scheme for rehousing squatters in Kingston was completed in 1950 at a cost of around £52,000. Some 1,720 persons were housed in 48 tenements comprising 576 rooms. Altogether it is expected that Government programmes may provide about 20,000 dwellings by 1956, and private enterprise a further 12,000.

Assistance to owner-occupiers and to persons whose homes were damaged in the 1944 hurricane has been made possible by an interest-free loan of £875,000 provided by the United Kingdom. The scheme provides for loans to owner-occupiers and also for subsidies of 33⅓ per cent. of a cost not exceeding £200 and a percentage of repair costs, to be applied in reduction of loan. Total payments in reduction of indebtedness under this scheme were £165,729 by 1950. Similar assistance is given to owner-occupiers in rural areas to improve housing and to install sanitary conveniences. No housing schemes are undertaken by local authorities.

There is very little private building of working class homes. The development of suburban areas by private enterprise has been expanding but further expansion is likely to be restricted owing to lack of mortgage funds.

There are 20 registered building societies, six of them in Kingston. They do not grant building loans but prefer to make loans for house purchase. Usual terms are five per cent. (compared with 7½ per cent. charged by other lenders) and repayment of interest and sinking fund by monthly instalments in ten years.

There is also an arrangement whereby the societies grant loans to purchasers of government houses on special terms. Terms are ⅘ of value repayable over 20 years at 5 per cent. instead of the usual terms of ⅔ value repayable in ten years at 7½ per cent. Under the agreement 15 per cent. of the loan is guaranteed by the Government Central Housing authority. Up to the end of 1949 £50,680 had been authorised under this arrangement, of which £14,434 had been advanced.

A town-planning law has recently been enacted providing for the creation of specialised zones and for redevelopment of certain areas. Rural housing schemes in so far as they are on government-owned land are also included.

Schemes prepared include :—

1. Kingston :
   (*a*) The West Kingston Industrial Estate (630 acres).
   (*b*) University Area Development Plan.
   (*c*) Dock and Harbour Facilities Development Plan.
   (*d*) Norman Range Middle Class Residential Neighbourhood Unit.
2. Plans for 14 parish towns.
3. Preparation of aerial survey maps.
4. Plan and Survey of Grand Cayman.

The number of building permits issued for construction in the greater Kingston area between 1942 and 1949 were :—

	Total	*Residential*	*Other*
1942 ..	294	198	17
1943 ..	367	337	14
1944 ..	519	315	32
1945 ..	695	715	66
1946 ..	880	676	92
1947 ..	675	555	77
1948 ..	648	634	127
1949 ..	476	505	138

Social Security

There is no statutory provision for old age pensions nor unemployment insurance. No special provision is made for the physically handicapped, but indigence due to this cause and to illness is assisted under the *Poor Relief Law* (Cap. 53), mainly by the payment of weekly cash grants.

Digitized by Google

A statutory Board with an administrative Secretary supervises the administration of poor relief by the Parochial Boards who are the Managers of the poor in each parish.

There is a system of outdoor medical attention at Hospitals and Dispensaries, and Almshouse accommodation is provided for the infirm and chronically ill, including incurable tubercular cases which need institutional care and attention.

Orphans and other handicapped children are maintained in Denominational Homes and children committed by the Courts for offences are sent to Industrial Schools. There is an after-care service for children from Industrial Schools.

Expenditure on Poor Relief Services in recent years has been :—

EXPENDITURE ON POOR RELIEF SERVICES

	1948		*1949*		*1950*	
	Expenditure £000	*No. of recipients*	*Expenditure £000*	*No. of recipients*	*Expenditure £000*	*No. of recipients*
Administration	34·0	—	43·9	—	47·1	—
Outdoor Relief	89·6	12,649	106·4	13,244	114·4	19,518
Almshouses	65·0	2,645	82·5	2,871	87·3	5,508
Children in Homes, etc... ..	38·3	1,378	46·5	1,437	49·0	1,740
	226·9	—	279·3	—	297·8	—

Relief payments vary from 1s. a week to 12s. for families with many dependents, the average weekly payment to outdoor paupers for the year ended 31st March, 1950, being 2s. 9d. The average weekly cost of Almshouse inmates was 11s. 4d. for the same period.

There is provision under the *Workmen's Compensation Law* (*Cap. 408*) for loss of employment due to injury. There is a Protector for East Indian Immigrants (former indentured labourers) and an officer specially appointed to see to their welfare.

A Social Security Committee was appointed in 1943 to examine the Beveridge plan and to report on such aspects of the plan as can be made applicable to Jamaica. In addition the Committee was required to recommend such schemes of Social Security as may be deemed advisable and expedient. The report, however, had not been published by the end of 1950 and no legislation has been enacted to provide a Social Security programme embracing provision for unemployment insurance.

Political Structure

In 1944 Jamaica received a new Constitution which provided for a bi-cameral Legislature with a normal life of five years and for election of the lower House on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The constitution provides for four bodies of which the Executive Council is the principal instrument of policy. The other bodies are the Privy Council, Legislative Council, and the House of Representatives.

The functions of the *Privy Council* are limited to advising the Governor on the exercise of the Royal Prerogative and the discipline of the Civil Service.

The *Executive Council* consists of the Governor as Chairman, three Official Members (the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), two Nominated Members (who are nominated by the Governor and are to be Members of the Legislative Council and persons not holding office of emolument under the Crown), and five Elected Members (who shall be Members of the House of Representatives, elected to the Council by the House). The Governor does not have an original vote, but if on any question the votes are equally divided, he is to have a casting vote.

This Council is the principal instrument of policy, and also prepares the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and all Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure before their introduction into the House of Representatives. In the formulation of policy and in the execution of all other authorities and powers conferred upon him, except in certain specified cases such as those dealt with by the Governor in Privy Council, the Governor is to consult with the Executive Council (save in certain specified events), and is to act in accordance with the Council's advice. He may, however, act against the advice of the Council with the prior approval of the Secretary of State or, if in his judgment urgent neccessity so requires, without such approval, provided that in the latter case the circumstances will be reported to the Secretary of State without delay.

Although not provided for in the Constitution, it has been arranged, with the approval of the House of Representatives, that the various subjects which form the work of the several Government Departments shall be divided into five main groups, as indicated below, and that each of the five Elected Members of the Executive Council, who are now designated Ministers, shall be assigned one of these groups and that he shall be responsible in the House for matters affecting the Government Departments which deal with the subjects assigned to him. The groups of departments are (1) Finance and General Purpose, (2) Communications, (3)Agriculture, Lands and Commerce, (4) Education, (5) Social Welfare.

The principal Government Departments concerned with economic affairs are Income Tax, Commerce, Collector General, Currency, Lands, Forestry, Agriculture, Trade Control.

The *House of Representatives* consists of 32 Members, one from each of the 32 constituencies into which the Island is divided (Kingston—including Port Royal—St. Andrew, Clarendon and St. Catherine are each divided into three constituencies and the remaining ten parishes into two constituencies each). Election is on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and the qualifications for election in any constituency are that the candidate must be a British subject, 21 years of age or over, and qualified for registration as a voter, and must have been ordinarily resident in Jamaica for 12 months immediately preceding the day of election. A candidate for election is also required to make a deposit of £50, and he forfeits the deposit if he receives less than one-eighth of the total amount of votes polled in his constituency. The House elects a Speaker from among its members.

The House has, in general, all the powers given by the existing laws to the previous Legislative Council. Save in certain exceptional cases where the Governor, with the consent of the Executive Council and the Secretary of State, may exercise an over-riding power, all Bills must be passed by the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council before they can become law. The Annual Estimates of Expenditure and Supplementary Estimates are also subject to the approval of the House. Any question may be debated in the House, but no Bill which is certified by the Speaker to be a money measure or intended to implement the policy of Government may be introduced without the approval of the Executive Council.

The *Legislative Council* consists of three *ex-officio* Members (the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary and Treasurer), not more than

Digitized by Google

two Official Members (who are to be persons holding office of emolument under the Crown) and not less than ten Unofficial Members (who are to be persons *not* holding office of emolument under the Crown). The Council elects one of its Members (who is to be one of the Unofficial Members, not a member of the Executive Council) to be its President.

The functions of this Council are, in the main, the consideration of legislation passed by the House of Representatives. Save in certain exceptional cases where the Governor with the consent of the Executive Council and the Secretary of State may exercise an over-riding power, all Bills must be passed by the Legislative Council before they can become law.

There are two main political parties in Jamaica, the Jamaican Labour Party and the People's National Party.

Local Government.

There are 14 parishes in Jamaica, of which Kingston and St. Andrew are amalgamated under a corporate body, with a Mayor and Council, known as the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. Other parishes are administered by parochial Boards. All local elections have been on the basis of adult suffrage since 1947. Elections are biennial.

The local authorities are concerned chiefly with the maintenance of water supplies and municipal and parochial roads, public health and sanitation, and the administration of poor relief. They derive their revenue from local rates and taxes and grants from the central Government. (Such grants represent about 40 per cent. of the revenue of all local authorities taken together.) Estimates of revenue and expenditure are subject to approval by the Governor in Executive Council and/or the House of Representatives. Progress towards independence has been retarded largely by the inadequacy of local resources.

For details of the revenue and expenditure of local authorities, see pages 144-5.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The registration of companies is governed by the *Companies Law, Cap.* 260, dating back to 1864. The Law was being revised in 1950 to meet modern requirements and a draft bill on the lines of the 1948 United Kingdom Companies Act was in preparation. There is legislation enabling price control to be enforced, and the *Rent Restriction Laws*—17 of 1944 and 1 of 1949—provide for restriction of rent increases on dwelling houses, building land, and commercial and public buildings above that ruling as at 1st January, 1941 (except under certain circumstances) and for the establishment of Rent Assessment Boards. The operation of these laws was extended for another three years from 23rd February, 1949.

With the object of encouraging secondary industries the Government recently passed a number of laws providing concessions for particular industries and later a general *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* to replace the giving of concessions on an *ad hoc* basis. The concessions take the form of income tax, customs duty and royalties reliefs, and in some cases provide for restriction on imports and of the number of firms licenced.

The laws in operation are :—

The *Safeguarding of Local Industries Law.* Cap. 298 as amended by Law 30 of 1944. This provides for the licencing of industries. The only industries so licenced are the manufacture of matches, condensed milk and cornmeal.

The *Hotels Aid Law* 55 *of* 1944, as amended by *Laws* 18 of 1947 and 28 of 1950.

The *Textile Industry Encouragement Law* 52 *of* 1947, 17 *of* 1949. A large new spinning and weaving concern, the Auguanabo Co. Ltd., has been declared a recognised manufacturer.

The *Cement Industry Encouragement and Control Law* 29 *of* 1948, 16 *of* 1949.

(In addition to the above reliefs the Law forbids importation of cement except under licence. An exclusive licence to manufacture has been given to the Caribbean Cement Co. Ltd.)

The *Motion Picture Encouragement Law* 34 *of* 1948, 29 *of* 1949.

(Usual reliefs and also provision that only licenced producers may operate.)

The *Manufacture of Buttons Encouragement Law* 4 *of* 1949. No firms have applied for recognition under this Law.

The *Bauxite and Alumina Industry Encouragement Law* 12 *of* 1950. There are three foreign companies engaged in bauxite mining in Jamaica.

The *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* 13 *of* 1949. This provides for an income tax holiday for pioneer industries for any 5 of the first 8 years of operation and for the writing off against profits of 20 per cent. of permitted capital expenditure in each of such years. Pioneer industries are also allowed to import free of duty equipment required for a pioneer factory. Pioneer industries licenced under this Law at the end of 1949 included hypocrete (a new building material), gypsum products, boxes, cocoa powder and butter, laundry blue, tool handles, salt and carbon dioxide.

Legislation connected with orderly marketing, price stabilisation and crop insurance includes : The *Coconut Industry Control Law* 8 *of* 1945 ; the *Coconut Insurance Law* 34 *of* 1949 ; the *Coffee Industry Regulation Law* 43 *of* 1948 ; the *Sugar Industry Control Law* ; the *Sugar Reserve Funds Law* 2 *of* 1948 ; the *Banana Insurance Law* 49 *of* 1949 ; *the Agricultural Marketing Law* 54 *of* 1944, 23 *of* 1948, 27 *of* 1949 ; the *Co-operative Societies Law* 38 *of* 1949.

The more important laws relating to the provision of long-term credit are :

The *Agricultural Loan Societies Law* 28 *of* 1944 ; the *Approved Organisations and Authorities Loans Law* 18 *of* 1948, 4 *of* 1949.

Trade Tariffs

The customs tariff is arranged in five schedules and continues in force by authority of *Law* 34 *of* 1939 and may be revoked, reduced, increased or altered by Resolution of the House of Representatives.

Digitized by Google

The main features of the revised customs tariff as at 1st October, 1951, are :—

		Import Duties	
		British Preferential Tariff	*General Tariff*
Beer, stout, ale, porter	per gall.	6s. 10½d.	8s. 6d.
Brandy, whisky, rum and gin—			
Not over 80 proof	,, ,,	£4 10s. 0d.	£5 18s. 0d.
Over 80 per cent. proof	,, ,,	£5 12s. 6d.	£7 2s. 6d.
Cigarettes	per lb.	£1 11s. 4d.	£1 12s. 4d.
Other manufactured tobacco	,, ,,	£1 1s. 0d.	£1 1s. 10d.
Flour (wheat)	196 lb.	9s. 0d.	12s. 0d.
Rice (undressed)	100 ,,	1s. 3d.	1s. 8d.
Other meal and flour	100 ,,	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.
Split peas	100 ,,	10d.	1s. 3d.
Butter	100 ,,	6s. 3d.	18s. 9d.
Margarine	—	15s. 0d.	£1 10s. 0d.
Lard and lard substitute	100 lb.	6s. 3d.	12s. 6d.
Condensed milk	48 lb.	1s. 6d.	3s. 0d. or 1s. 6d. + 10% whichever is higher
Condensed skimmed milk	48 ,,	16s. 8d.	£1 13s. 4d.
Cheese	100 ,,	8s. 4d.	16s. 8d.
Sugar (refined and unrefined)	100 ,,	6s. 3d.	8s. 4d.
Coffee (raw)	100 ,,	15s. 0d.	£1 0s. 0d.
Potatoes	100 ,,	1s. 0d.	2s. 0d.
Meat, fresh	—	15%	30%
Salt dried or smoked cod	100 lb.	2s. 1d.	4s. 2d.
Salt pork	100 ,,	free	4s. 2d.
Outer garments (other than knitted)—			
Cotton	—	20%	30% + 12s. a doz.
Other	—	25%	40% + 17s. 6d. per doz.
Underwear—			
Cotton	—	15%	25% + 7s. 6d. per doz.
Other	—	25%	40% + 17s. 6d. per doz.
Hosiery (cotton)	—	10%	10% + 9d. per pair
Boots and shoes—			
Leather	—	15%	25% + 3s. 6d. per pair
Rubber	—	15%	25% + 1s. 0d. per pair
Piece goods (cotton)—			
Unbleached	—	10%	20%
Other	—	20%	30%
Yarn	—	5%	7½%
Raw cotton	—	10%	15%
Cement (as defined by order)	ton	12s. 0d.	£1 4s. 0d.
Other	,,	£3 0s. 0d.	£4 10s. 0d.
Electrical apparatus (portable tools and domestic appliances)	—	15%	20%
*Machinery	—	free	5%
Motor vehicles and accessories	—	20%	40%
Tractors	—	free	5%
Motor spirit	per gall.	1s. 4d.	1s. 9d.
Kerosene	,, ,,	1d.	2d.
Gas and fuel oil	,, ,,	free	free
Wood and lumber—			
Sawn	1,000 super ft.	6s. 9d.	14s. 9d.
Dressed	1,000 ,, ,,	10s. 6d.	18s. 6d.

* Except office machinery and large household appliances which are 15 per cent., B.P.T. and 20 per cent. General Tariff.

Also payable as from 1st October, 1951, are certain additional duties imposed in 1950. These are :—

	Surtax of :—
Underwear	6s. 0d. per doz.
Shirts	6s. 0d. per doz.
Boots and shoes of 50s. and above, per pair	20% *ad valorem*
Gramophones	10% ,, ,,
Jewellery	25% ,, ,,
Watches £3 and under	10% ,, ,,
Over £3	20% ,, ,,
Motor cars	5% ,, ,,
Radios	10% ,, ,,
Wines	20% ,, ,,
Piece goods :	
Not over 1s. 6d. per yard	1d. per yard
Over 1s. 6d. but not over 3s. per yard	2d. ,, ,,
Over 3s. but not over 10s. per yard	4d. ,, ,,
Over 10s. per yard	1s. 0d. ,, ,,

Goods which are admitted free (apart from those for special purposes which are exempt from duty) include fresh milk, fresh fish, wheat, animal feeding stuffs, most fertilisers, coal and gas oil.

The only export duties are those on spirits, wines and spiritous liquors (other than rum made in Jamaica) shipped to any country or Dependency of Jamaica :—

per case (12 quarts.) = 5s. 0d.

per cask not over 100 gallons £12 10s. 0d. (£1 5s. 0d. for each additional 12 gallons).

There are excise duties on aerated waters, beer, coconut products, cornmeal, edible oils, matches, spirits, cigars, cigarettes and tobacco. The principal duties are :—

Aerated Water	3d. per gallon
Beer	3s. 4½d. per gallon
Butter substitutes	15s. 0d. ,, 100 lb.
Condensed milk	3s. 6d. ,, 100 lb.
Soap	3s. 6d. ,, 100 lb.
Cornmeal	1s. 6d. ,, 196 lb.
Matches	7s. 1d. ,, gross boxes of 50
Spirits (proof)	23s. 4d. ,, gallon
Cigars	1s. 6d.–6s. 0d. per 100 (varying with price)
Cigarettes	5s. 0d. per 100
Manufactured tobacco	6s. 0d. ,, lb.
Edible oil	1s. 0d. ,, gallon
Sugar	½d. per lb.

Over 90 per cent. of the total yield from excise duties is derived from duties on rum, beer and tobacco.

Digitized by Google

Import licences are required for imports from "hard currency" areas and for a few goods from other sources which are in short supply and therefore not on Open General Licence.

Export licences are also in force with the object of restricting re-export of articles imported from hard currency areas and the export of certain other products (including some of local manufacture). Export licensing also helps to ensure that receipts from sales to hard currency areas are lodged at a recognised bank in Jamaica.

Labour

The following were among the principal labour laws in effect in 1950 :—

The *Arbitration Law Cap.* 437.

The *Shop Assistant Law Cap.* 292, 36 *of* 1938.
Regulations have been made under this Law fixing hours of work for shop assistants in different areas.

The *Trade Union Law Cap.* 296, 55 *of* 1938, 36 *of* 1940.
The first trade union law was No. 37 of 1919. In the last decade the growth of unionism has been rapid and there were in 1949, 25 registered unions of which the Bustamente Trade Union with a membership of 58,600 covering all branches of industry and agriculture was the largest.

The *Prevention of Accidents at Sugar Mills Law Cap.* 301.

The *Juveniles Law* of 1948.

The Employment of Women Law 33 *of* 1941.

The *Masters and Servants Law Cap.* 387, 27 *of* 1940.

The *Apprenticeship Law Cap.* 388.

A committee appointed in 1943 suggested the modernisation of this law but no more recent legislation was in force in 1950.

The *Employers Liability Law Cap.* 389.

The *Recruiting of Workers Law* 30 *of* 1940.

The *Protection of Property Law Cap.* 397.

The *Workmen's Compensation Law Cap.* 408, 35 *of* 1939, 71 *of* 1941, 45 *of* 1942.

The *Minimum Wage Law* 21 *of* 1938, 5 *of* 1948.
Under this law various proclamations have been made up to the end of 1949 fixing minimum wages in the sugar, baking, catering, printing, beverages and dry goods trades.

The *Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Law* 16 *of* 1939.

The *Factories Law* 43 *of* 1940, 1 *of* 1942.
Provides for regulation of factories, safety measures and inspection.

The *Holidays with Pay Law* 2 *of* 1947.

Land Tenure

Most land tenure in Jamaica is freehold or the rights of the individual are vested in fee simple.

Leasehold titles are not popular in Jamaica, but a number of experiments are now being conducted with the object of encouraging this type of tenure. The Government-owned Industrial Estate in Kingston is to be on a leasehold basis. Leasehold tenancies are usually of two types, short term tenancies such as those prevailing where land is leased by plantations to tenant cultivators, and medium term tenancies such as those held by cultivators of Crown land. In 1949 Government had 4,876 agricultural tenants on 5,316 acres, 141 lease tenants on 14,964 acres and 27 Town Lot tenancies on 23 acres. On the Government Land Settlements a system of restricted freehold has been employed, with the object of ensuring proper use of the land and control of agricultural practice.

Laws relating to land tenure include the *Land Acquisition Law*, which provides for acquisition of land for public purposes and apportionment of compensation, and the *Small Holdings Law*. With regard to native reserves there are two communities of Maroons (descendants of slaves of the Spanish) who live on reservations at Accompong, where they occupy 1,220 acres as reservation and 2,500 acres on lease, and at Moore Town, where they occupy 1,270 acres.

The principal laws governing mineral rights are: The *Radio-Active Mineral Law* 17 *of* 1947 *and amendments of schedule*; the *Minerals Vesting Law* 38 *of* 1947, which vests all mineral rights in the Crown (oil and stone and other materials for building are excluded from its provisions); the *Mining Law* 41 *of* 1947 which controls mining operations, except in the case of oil.

Transport and Communications

Roads

There are 2,566 miles of main road, of which some 630 miles are asphalted and the remainder are of water-bound macadam surface. Of the total mileage 2,505 miles are suitable for motor traffic and have grades of 1 in 15. The 2,200 miles of secondary roads are used mainly by dray traffic and pack animals. It is planned to construct a further 124 miles of road. The numbers of vehicles licenced during the year for a series of years have been :—

NUMBER OF VEHICLES LICENCED ANNUALLY

	Motor Cars		*Motor Trucks and Buses*				
	Private and Commercial	*Public Passenger Vehicles*	*20-cwt. and under*	*21–40-cwt.*	*40–50-cwt.*	*over 50 cwt.*	*Motor Cycles*
1938–9	8,398	1,411	29	487	1,780	591	303
1946–7	7,862	738	28	41	1,121	788	359
1947–8	9,758	878	134	647	1,102	1,398	391
1948–9	10,570	791	189	679	1,014	1,807	600
1949–50	13,056	1,035	243	771	997	2,045	656

Since 1948 public passenger transport in the Corporate area has been provided exclusively by buses. There are 70 buses operating over 13 routes, covering 64 route miles and carrying some 25 million passengers per annum. There are over 200 public road vehicles operating in rural areas over 196 routes between remote districts and principal towns.

Railways

Jamaica has one of the oldest colonial railways, the first section having been constructed in 1845. It is owned by the Government. The existing routes are: Kingston to Montego Bay, 113 miles; Spanish Town to Port Antonio, 63 miles; branch lines, 31 miles. Maintenance is expensive owing to the mountainous nature of the country traversed, and increasing competition has to be faced from motor trucks and buses, so that the railways have for many years been operated at a loss. In the interests of economy all main line and shunting engines were recently converted from coal to oil. It is proposed to substitute diesel rail coaches at an early date, thus making passenger travel faster and more comfortable, leaving steam trains for freight traffic, excursion trips and market day trips.

Passenger rates have been reduced to pre-war levels, regular passenger journeys being 1d. per mile and cheap and market fares being single fare for the return journey.

Digitized by Google

The number of passengers carried and passenger revenue have fallen off considerably from the peaks reached in the war years. The decline in goods tonnage has not been proportionately so great :—

RAILWAY STATISTICS

	Route milcage open to public	*Total Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*	*Balance*	*Passenger Revenue*	*Goods Revenue*	*No. of Passengers carried*	*Tons goods carried*
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	000
1938–9	210	301·3	287·7	+ 13·5	24·4	238·5	420·1	336·3
1944–5	212	578·4	682·8	−104·4	148·6	389·2	1,351·9	404·5
1945–6	212	545·5	673·6	−128·0	160·1	343·9	1,395·8	346·2
1946–7	212	390·5	592·7	−202·2	108·8	244·3	957·7	308·2
1947–8	210	359·8	545·5	−185·7	73·3	214·2	612·8	322·0
1948–9	207	356·5	550·5	−194·0	63·9	223·3	600·5	307·8
1949–50	207	335·2	607·9	−272·7	65·1	215·6	734·5	326·9

Freight rates on the principal commodities carried pre-war and post-war and revenue therefrom are shown below :—

RAILWAY FREIGHT RATES

	1938–1939		1948–1949	
	Rate per ton mile	*Revenue £000*	*Rate per ton mile*	*Revenue £000*
	d.		d.	
Bananas	5	190	8–9	72
Canes	1½	2·7	1½–2½	13·0
Sugar	1½–2	4·3	2½–3	32·0
Rum	2½		3	
General merchandise	2–2½	24·0	3½–4	80·0
Citrus	1½	2·5	2	4·1

In pre-war days the banana traffic accounted for 80 per cent. of total goods revenue, but the decline in the industry due to disease has had a noticeable effect on railway revenue. Existing engines and stock could handle a much denser traffic without a large increase in operating and overhead charges. It is hoped that increased traffic due to expansion of the banana and sugar industries and the mining of bauxite will help to improve the financial position of the railways. The railway owns three piers at Kingston, one of which it leases to the United Fruit Company. The piers have rail connections with the Island rail system.

Shipping

Regular passenger services are maintained to the United Kingdom by Messrs. Elders & Fyffes, Ltd., and the Jamaica Banana Producers Steamship Co., Ltd., and to the United States of America by the United Fruit Co., Alcoa Steamship Co., and Messrs. Kirkconnel Bros., and there are other services to Europe and the Far East. There are motor vessel services to the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, and to the Turks Islands.

These shipping lines, together with the Royal Mail Line, maintain regular cargo services and there are cargo services to Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Of the area of Kingston harbour 7 sq. miles are navigable for ocean going vessels, and it can accommodate about 100 vessels at anchor. There are 20 berths alongside wharves capable of accommodating ocean going vessels up to 25,000 gross tons, and two oiling and one coaling berth wharves for smaller craft. About 98 per cent. of Jamaica's imports and 35 per cent. of her exports pass through this harbour. Port Antonio and Port Morant are two well-protected ports each of which has one wharf capable of accommodating a ship up to about 7,000 tons, and there is anchorage for others. At all other ports vessels remain at anchor and are served by lighters. Wharves, lighters and equipment for handling freight are available at outports to handle such commodities as bananas, sugar, logwood and general cargo. Some ports handle some of each while others handle only sugar and general cargo, or bananas and general cargo.

Before the war two different shipping companies maintained regular weekly shipping services between Kingston and the outports. During the war, one of the two services was carried on with the help of a Government subsidy which was intended to conserve imported fuel used by rail and road vehicles, but since the subsidy has been withdrawn, the regular service has become extinct and in fact, since the end of the war all coastal shipping services both regular and irregular, have practically ceased to exist. The extinction of local shipping services has come about mainly through competition from road transport, which is capable of hauling goods from door to door, so that costly lighterage, wharfage and double handling charges which have to be paid when goods are hauled by sea, are avoided.

Telecommunications

The telephone service is operated by the Jamaica Telephone Company Limited throughout the Island. Supply difficulties have prevented the company from satisfying the large waiting list which accumulated during the war. There are now some 11,000 subscribers. The country exchanges are linked together to the main exchange at Kingston by a comprehensive system of trunk routes affording good telecommunications over practically the whole of Jamaica. In the larger towns the system is automatic and the service is on a flat rate basis with no limitation on the number of local calls.

Extensive telephone services are operated in conjunction with Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited and radiotelephone communications operate between Jamaica and Europe, North and South America and the Far East. An overseas radio telegraph service is in operation to the United Kingdom, North America, Cuba, Mexico, Bahamas and Puerto Rico.

A low-powered broadcasting station operated by the Government was inaugurated in 1939. The Jamaica Broadcasting Company Limited has been granted a licence to operate a commercial service which opened in 1950.

There were 311 Post Offices and 90 agencies in 1950, of which 245 were telegraph and telephone stations. Telegraph lines connect all principal towns. A daily postal service is maintained throughout the island. Money order services are limited to the capital and important towns.

The main airports are Palisadoes (Kingston) and Montago Bay. The following air services were in operation at the end of 1951 :—

B.O.A.C. : To Bahamas, United States, Bermuda, Azores, Portugal and United Kingdom.

British West Indian Airways : To Bahamas and United States, to Trinidad and Venezuela, to Barbados, Antigua and Puerto Rico, and to British Honduras.

Caribbean International Airways : To Cayman Islands.

Trans-Canada Air Lines ; To Bahamas, United States and Canada.

Digitized by Google

Pan American World Airways: To United States, Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama.

Chicago and Southern Air Lines: To United States, Cuba and Venezuela.

Airanca (Colombian National Airlines): To Colombia and United States.

K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airlines): To United States, Cuba, Dutch West Indies, Venezuela, Haiti and Dominican Republic.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

It is estimated that less than half of the island's acreage is cultivable, the remainder being uncultivable slopes, swamps, etc. Further, some of the hillside land now under cultivation is, according to proper standards of soil conservation, not suitable for the purpose.

No land utilisation surveys have been made, but the following estimates are thought to represent approximately the distribution of land amongst various uses.

	Thousand acres
Cultivated	423
Cultivable, but not used	312
Pasture	595
Woodland, private and reserves	500
Swamps and Saline Land	53
*Unclassified	780
U.S.A. bases, Government agricultural projects, Water Commission	55
Roads, railways, towns	105
	2,823

* Probably mainly lightly wooded and scrub with a small amount of cultivated land.

The soil fertility of the agricultural land is very varied. The most fertile soils are to be found on the alluvial flats of the coast and river basins which are largely occupied by the large estates producing sugar, coconuts or bananas. Some sections of the coastal alluvium are unproductive, because of high salinity or in some cases low rainfall and lack of water.

In the interior soils are mainly derived from olegocene limestone. These soils are generally deficient in potash and nitrogen, and sometimes in phosphate, but are very resistant to erosion and have successfully produced tree crops, root crops and pasture for a long period. Applications of potash fertilisers give good results, but fixation of phosphates is difficult.

The remaining soils are mostly derived from shales, conglomerates and the igneous rocks of the central mountain area, and are usually deficient in phosphate and other nutrients. They are highly erosive and cultivation is limited by the steepness of the slope.

The area under various crops is not known exactly, but the following rough estimates have been made for 1950 :—

Sugar	90,000 acres
Bananas	65,000 „
Coconuts	100,000 „
Corn	35,000 „
Sweet Potatoes	12,000 „
Yams	27,000 „
Coffee	17,000 „
Ginger	1,600 „
Cocoa	2·5 m. trees
Citrus, oranges	1·57 „ „
grapefruit	0·55 „ „
Pimento	2·1 „ „

The acreages shown above cannot be totalled since there is considerable inter-cropping.

The numbers and sizes of farms were shown by the 1943 census to be as follows :—

	No. of farms	*Total acreage*
1 and under 5 acres	37,903	114,363
5 „ „ 50 „	25,774	353,179
50 „ „ 500 „	1,953	202,115
500 acres and over	540	1,067,497
	66,170	1,737,154

During the 18th century the estate system of agriculture expanded and virtually covered the island. The estates usually consisted of slices of land running from the central ranges to the sea, the flats being cultivated and the limestone plateau used for grazing, while coffee, cocoa, pimento and food crops for the maintenance of the estate villages were grown in the more accessible part of the plateau and central ranges. After the Emancipation in 1838 these estates became progressively fragmented. The monoculture (at first sugar and, towards the end of the century, bananas), or coconuts with inter-cropping of bananas and pasture. The large grazing " pens " on the limestone plateau are also run on a more or less extensive system.

The small or medium size tenants or freehold farmers who are scattered through the interior, and to a less extent the coastal plains, practise a diversified kind of non-rotational farming including a variable proportion of permanent crops such as citrus, cocoa, coffee, bananas and pimento and fruit trees often mixed or intercropped, while short-term food crops—peas, beans, yams, cocoes, sweet potato and maize are cultivated either on the shifting or sedentary principle. The only livestock kept are usually a few goats, pigs or sheep. In some areas the small farms are highly specialised, e.g., in the banana areas of Portland and St. Mary, the coffee areas of the Blue Mountains and the ginger area in the centre of the island. In the lowlands of St. Elizabeth parish where a fairly defined rotation is practised an efficient kind of dry farming has been evolved. Efforts are being made to encourage rotation and increased concentration of livestock on small holdings but so far with little success.

The yields shown below (apart from sugar) are what would be regarded as normal yields by practical farmers.

Sugar	Estates about 30 tons cane per acre, small cane farmers about 10–15 tons.
Oranges	50 boxes per acre marketable fruit.
Grapefruit	75 „ „ „ „ „
Coffee	50 lb. per acre (dried beans) per annum.
Coconuts	1,000 nuts per acre per annum.
Irish potato	80 cwts. per acre per crop.
Maize	13 bushels of 64 lb. per acre per crop.
Rice	1,200 lb. per acre per crop.
White Yams	150 cwts. per acre (about 12 mths).
Yellow Yams	110 cwts. per acre (about 9 mths.).

It is not to be assumed that these " normal " values necessarily approximate to the general mean yield for the whole Island, and it is noteworthy that the over-all mean yields derived from the 1943 census data are generally about one-third of the above figures for yams, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes, although there is no significant difference in the case of rice, maize and citrus.

On the large estates there has been a considerable development of mechanisation in recent years, replacing the traditional use of animal drawn equipment. Elsewhere mechanisation has made little progress. In the case of the very small farms, mechanisation is rendered almost impracticable by the local topography and the small size of fields. The most suitable implement on these farms would appear to be the animal-drawn hillside plough, but the high price of draught animals and the lack of provision for their care on small holdings have prevented their increased use.

Digitized by Google

On the medium-sized farms, some attempt is being made at a direct change-over from hand implements to motor traction. The greatest difficulty encountered is the cost of the preliminary operations of stumping and clearing, which have not generally been carried out because of the absence of the intermediate stage of animal-drawn implements. The Government has undertaken the purchase of a few large units intended for hire to farms to carry out these preliminary operations. It still remains a question whether the use of small motor units will prove economic on the majority of the smaller farms because of local topography and other problems.

Field experiments have been carried out on the fertiliser requirements of bananas, citrus, coconuts, tomatoes, corn and other food crops and grasses by the Department of Agriculture, and the results of these experiments form the basis of advice for manurial applications to these crops.

Application of fertilisers in practical farming is most advanced in the case of sugar. As a result of field experiments and studies on the nutrition of sugar cane fertiliser application is now made on all the estates on a field by field basis, with the help of foliar analyses. In the case of Irish potatoes also, the use of fertilisers has become a regular practice. With most other crops fertiliser application is not systematic and is limited to the more progressive farmers.

The practice of irrigation has been extended in recent years in Jamaica, and altogether about 41,000 acres are irrigated. The easily permeable character of the Jamaica limestone has given rise to large stores of underground water, and in the coastal area underground water is usually available not far below the surface of the ground. The sources are fairly extensively tapped by means of shallow wells provided with pumping plant for irrigation of major crops.

In certain areas irrigation by means of river diversion and small storage work is also practised, the oldest and most important being the Rio Cobre Irrigation Scheme in St. Catherine. The eastern plain of Vere in the parish of Clarendon is also irrigated. Irrigation schemes have also been established by private enterprise in St. Thomas.

A scheme for more extensive irrigation in areas of low rainfall has been prepared and is expected to be put into practice shortly. Drainage does not present a major problem except in the limited swamp areas.

During the last few decades, soil erosion has become a serious menace in some areas. The worst cases of erosion occur on soils derived from shales and conglomerates on the slopes of the central mountain range, especially where clean weeding has been practised for many years, as in the case of coffee and ginger cultivation. Sheet erosion has also occurred on the erosion-resistant Red Dirt soils of the limestone plateau, in certain areas where hillsides have been cleared and bananas or ginger have been cultivated for many years. Details of the steps being taken to establish good practices of soil conservation are given in the Annual Report on Soil Conservation in Jamaica 1946–47.

The following are the principal diseases affecting crops and livestock in Jamaica :—

Mosaic disease of *cane* did a considerable amount of damage before resistant varieties were introduced, but at present is not of serious proportions.

Banana production has been drastically limited in recent years by the ravages of Panama Disease (*Fusarium cubense*) introduced into the island in 1912, and more recently by Leaf Spot (*Mycosphaerella musicola*). The Lacatan banana, which if resistant to Panama disease, but susceptible to Leaf Spot disease, is now being planted widely. Experimental work to find a variety immune to both diseases continues.

Pimento production has in recent years suffered a severe set back due to the onset of Pimento Rust (*Puccinae psidii*), which is particularly severe on plantations over 2,000 feet. Spraying of pimento is impracticable. Expert opinion is that the disease is unlikely to spread to areas under 1,000 feet which are at present unaffected.

Coconuts have for many years suffered moderate damage from Bud Rot in the eastern parishes, particularly after hurricanes. An infectious disease called Unknown Disease is killing out coconuts in the less extensive coconut area to the West. No practicable measures of control have been discovered but research into the problem is being carried out.

The most serious diseases of *livestock* are *Brucella abortus*, with an incidence of about ten per cent. ; Black leg and Anaplasmosis, which occur frequently ; Helminth infection, which is extremely common, and Tick infection, which is still severe although controlled in some measure by dipping.

One other most important factor affecting agricultural production in Jamaica is the recurrent menace of hurricanes. Serious hurricane damage is expected to occur about once in five or six years. The crops most susceptible to this damage are bananas and coconuts, and hurricane insurance has become recognised as a feature of good husbandry.

Local Food Products

The pattern of Jamaican agriculture is mainly characterised by the growing of export crops, but certain food crops are grown for local consumption, the principal being coconuts, maize, pulses, root crops and small quantities of rice ; some mainly export crops are also consumed locally—for example, it is estimated that approximately one-third of the bananas and one per cent. of sugar are so consumed.

To foster production of local foodstuffs a system of guaranteed prices is in operation, administered by the Department of Commerce and Industries. If the market price drops below a minimum level the department will buy all supplies offered at the minimum price. The principal crops having guaranteed prices are maize, pulses, root crops and rice.

Coconuts

These are grown on the estates and smallholdings on the coastal plains in the eastern and northern districts. The standard of cultivation is generally poor and little fertiliser is used. The Census of 1943 showed that production was around 130 million nuts a year. Just over half of this was exported to North America for use in the confectionery industry, and the remainder was used in the local fats and oils industry. (For output of fats and oils see page 136.) Production was seriously affected by the hurricane of 1944, which destroyed nearly half the coconut trees and damaged others, but was recovering by 1949 when output was estimated at around 60 million nuts. The measures taken to assist and encourage replanting included the making of loans through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, the establishment of nurseries, and in 1949 the Coconut Hurricane Insurance scheme under which free automatic insurance is offered to growers.

Since 1944 no coconuts or copra have been exported outside the Caribbean Area as a result of the Fats and Oils Agreement (see Appendix, page 274) and all copra is used in the local soap and oil industries. The coconut industry is controlled by the Coconut Industry Board, the Coconut Control Authority, and the Coconut Product Board. Growers are organised in the Jamaica Producers' Association, which also own a factory manufacturing soap and oil and margarine. For the value of products made from copra see page 136. Local production alone is not sufficient to supply the requirements of existing factories, and some copra is imported.

Maize

Production has risen steadily in recent years, largely in response to guaranteed prices. No figures of production are available for a series of years, but purchases

Digitized by Google

by the Department of Commerce and Industry for use in their cornmeal plant established in 1940 are shown below:—

MAIZE PURCHASES BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, 1940–1950

Year	Local Purchases		Imported		Meal manufactured (tons)
	Long tons	Value	Long tons	Value	
		£		£	
1940	6,150	29,643	1,978	19,450	4,060
1941	10,340	104,260	1,035	10,491	3,816
1942	5,658	50,491	—	—	4,851
1943	4,357	48,799	1,257	22,349	2,708
1944	2,181	26,437	536	11,091	1,602
1945	909	12,547	—	—	248
1946	355	6,002	2,000	46,550	716
1947	1,720	37,299	4,225	99,021	4,970
1948	3,360	88,291	4,406	125,133	4,215
1949	14,770	—	—	—	—
1950	15,800	361,970	—	—	—

The capacity of the factory is around 6,000 tons of cornmeal (which is a favourite food in Jamaica.) Bran obtained in the milling process is used as a basic ingredient in the manufacture of animal feeding stuffs. Previously about half the corn used in the factory had to be imported, but local production in 1950–51 was around 16,000 tons, or more than twice the amount which could be absorbed by the local factory and local foodstuff requirements, and some corn was exported. There are also a number of small private cornmeal factories. Factory capacity is to be doubled so that Jamaica will be able to build up an export trade in cornmeal to other West Indian territories.

Other local crops

The pulses with guaranteed prices are congo, blackeye, red, cow, and caroline peas, and the root crops Irish potatoes and yams. Production of Irish potatoes in 1949 is estimated at around 2·3 million lb., of sweet potatoes around 38 million lb., and yams 100 million lb. Jamaica grows a small amount of rice, but output is insignificant compared with imports which are around 80,000 tons a year. Efforts are being made by the Jamaica Rice Growers Association and the Government to promote increased production. There are said to be large areas of otherwise useless swamp which could be made suitable for rice-growing, but no information is available on costs of production.

The only non-food crop grown for local use is sisal. There are three sisal factories which together have 2,200 acres under cultivation, yielding about 280 tons of fibre a year. It is estimated that this could be increased to 1,000 tons a year, of which 400 tons would satisfy local demand. By-products used are bagasse and tow, the former for mulching and the latter for stuffing mattresses. There are thought to be possibilities of developing other uses for sisal by-products.

Livestock

The only information on numbers of livestock in Jamaica is the 1943 census, which gives the following figures :—

Cattle	*Horses*	*Mules*	*Donkeys*	*Swine*	*Goats*	*Sheep*
226,000	13,000	25,000	51,000	218,000	260,000	13,000

The raising of livestock is an important industry in Jamaica, where there are large areas of pasture in the limestone plateau and in the interior basins. Most of these are occupied by large stock-raising estates, known as pens. These estates grow few crops, but considerable areas are leased to small cultivators who grow bananas, coffee, cocoa and citrus, etc. The pens carry a cattle population ranging from one beast to four acres to one beast to ten acres. Although stock breeding has improved considerably in recent years, little has been done in the way of grassland management involving rotational grazing or reploughing and replanting, or of mixed farming. Much land is ruinate and in need of regeneration. The total number of pens is around 550 and total grazing area thereon around 326,000 acres. Recently there has been an extensive transfer of large tracts of land from estate management to peasant ownership, and a change-over from beef to milk production.

Before the war Jamaica was almost self-sufficient in fresh meat, but since the opening of the condensory in 1940 there has been a change-over from beef to dairy cattle. With the object of protecting the beef industry and ensuring orderly marketing the Government therefore set up a clearing house in Kingston, and local committees have been appointed in rural areas to control the number of cattle slaughtered. This has been done to ensure that the sale of beef is regulated so as to ensure a fair distribution between the Corporate area and the country parishes. The amount of meat slaughtered in 1950 is estimated at around 19 million lb. Prices were 95s. per 100 lb. warm dressed carcass weight in Kingston and 90s. in country areas. The number of cattle slaughtered was around 45,000. The expansion of the dairy industry since the condensory was opened in 1940 by Jamaica Milk Products Limited, a subsidiary of Nestles, is illustrated by the expansion of output of condensed milk (see page 136). Deliveries of milk to the factory have increased from 1¼ million quarts in 1940 to 10·7 million quarts in 1950. The price in 1948 and 1949 was 5d. per quart ex-farm. In 1950 production of condensed milk exceeded local demand and a small amount was exported.

Dairy farmers have been showing increasing interest in the breeding, feeding and management of stock in recent years. The poultry industry has expanded in recent years, but is restricted by the high cost of imported feeding stuff. Egg production is estimated very roughly at around 2 million dozens per annum and Jamaica has recently been able to supply all local demands.

Cash Crops

Although some of the crops already referred to are in actual fact cash crops, this section is concerned chiefly with export crops.

Before the war bananas were the principal export crop, but this place is now held by sugar and its by-products. Bananas and sugar account for over 70 per cent. of the Island's export income. Of the remaining crops the more important are citrus, tobacco, pimento, cocoa, coffee, ginger and tomatoes. Minor agricultural exports include logwood extract, hides, skins, honey and annatto.

The Jamaica Department of Commerce and Industries is the sole exporter of bananas, coffee, cocoa and pimento. A number of agricultural exports are sold under contract to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food, in some cases by the Jamaican Government and in others by the industry. Coffee and bananas are sold under contracts ending in 1952 and 1954 respectively, and there are contracts for agreed amounts of citrus welfare juices until 1960 and of sugar until 1958 (see Appendix, page 273). The Jamaica Department of Commerce and Industries purchases in bulk through its agents from growers, dealers, etc., all coffee, bananas, cocoa and pimento, the price paid being the export price less expenses and cesses. In addition the Department provides marketing services for certain growers' co-operatives and operates a livestock clearing house.

Sugar

It is estimated that there were approximately 90,000 acres under sugar in 1950, although the acreage actually reaped was smaller. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of the cane is produced by estates, most of which

Digitized by Google

have their own factories, and the remainder by small farmers who sell their cane to these factories at a price determined by a statutory formula. The sugar produced in the factories is 96° polarisation. No refining of sugar is done in Jamaica except for a small amount used for local consumption.

The total area of the sugar estates amounts to some 200,000 acres, but of this area only about 53,000 acres is under cane, the remainder being devoted to other crops and uses. Cane farmers number around 10,000 and their total acreage planted in cane about 35,000 acres. The great majority of cane farmers have considerably less than five acres under cane.

Production of cane, sugar and rum in the years 1939–51 is shown below. Sugar production in 1949 was twice that in 1939 (which was very little below the pre-war peak production) and three times the level of production 20 years ago.

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
9·1	9·8	10·2	10·2	9·5	8·8	8·7	9·3	9·5	9·6	9·3	9·1	9·6

anything else, make mechanisation impracticable in many cases.

There are 23 sugar factories operating as compared with 34 in 1938, a number of the smaller and less efficient plants having been closed down. Of the existing factories about half have very modern equipment. The capacity of the factories ranges from 2,500 tons to 75,000 tons. The two largest factories grind approximately 40 per cent. of the total crop. The largest factory, the new plant at Monymusk (capacity 75,000 tons) came into production in 1949. Total factory capacity is about 300,000 tons.

The average number of tons cane required to make one ton of sugar (which depends partly on factory efficiency and partly on the quality of the cane) is shown below :—

The factories operate distilleries. Most make rum, but one concentrates on industrial alcohol.

There is a small plant run by the Colonial Food Yeast Company and financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, which manufactured about 300 tons of food yeast per annum from molasses during the years 1948–51.

PRODUCTION OF CANE, SUGAR AND RUM, 1939–1951

	Cane			*Sugar*	*Rum*
	Estates 000 tons	*Farmers 000 tons*	*Total 000 tons*	*tons*	*liquid gallons*
1939	790·2	270·8	1,061·1	117,879	1,239,179*
1940	726·8	244·1	970·9	99,283	1,681,621
1941	1,059·9	538·2	1,598·1	156,552	1,885,860
1942	981·1	604·2	1,585·3	155,262	2,079,663
1943	991·8	590·6	1,582·5	165,669	1,999,004
1944	868·0	466·3	1,334·3	151,882	1,926,339
1945	903·9	419·2	1,323·2	152,225	2,058,766
1946	1,123·6	536·6	1,660·2	177,886	2,180,162
1947	1,123·1	506·1	1,629·2	170,255	2,981,553
1948	1,363·1	518·7	1,882·3	192,814	3,111,506
1949	1,575·0	637·0	2,212·0	237,744	1,895,951
1950	1,710·7	764·0	2,474·7	271,582	2,308,000
1951	1,766·9	818·3	2,585·2	267,928	2,115,530 (est.)

* Production 1 April, 1939—31 March, 1940 and similarly in subsequent years.

No figures of average yields of cane per reaped acre are available for the Colony as a whole. As no formal returns are made by cane farmers it is not possible to estimate their yields, but the following table shows the average yield on sugar estates :—

SUGAR ESTATES—AVERAGE YIELD

	Acreage reaped	*Average yield per acre*
	acres	*tons cane*
1939 ..	30,737	25·7
1940 ..	29,395	24·7
1941 ..	33,322	31·8
1942 ..	35,547	27·9
1943 ..	35,987	27·5
1944 ..	36,076	24·1
1945 ..	35,771	25·3
1946 ..	36,776	30·5
1947 ..	38,078	29·5
1948 ..	43,975	31·0
1949 ..	48,211	32·7
1950 (est.)	52,865	32·4

The increase in yields is mainly due to the increased use of fertilisers, extension of mechanised cultivation and soil preparation, improvement of varieties of cane and expansion of irrigation. Cane farmers do not furnish returns, but yields are estimated to be about half those of the estates, and the yield decreases with the size of farm. The low yields of cane farmers are due, at least in part, to the high proportion of old ratoons, inadequate use of fertilisers and imperfect cultivation on small holdings. The nature of the terrain and size of holdings, apart from

The by-products of the sugar industry, cane trash, bagasse, etc., are used as a fuel in the sugar factories and as fertilisers.

There were in 1950 approximately 43,000 persons employed in the sugar industry in the crop season and approximately two-thirds of this number in the " out of crop " season. This excludes employees of cane farmers, but includes some 6,000 workers in the factories. The estates' wage bill in 1950 (excluding rum production) was approximately £3,000,000.

The sugar industry is under the supervision of the Sugar Control Board, a statutory body created under *Law 43 of 1937* (*Cap. 302*).

As explained previously, cane farmers sell their cane to the factory in their area. The price paid varies slightly from factory to factory but is based on a statutory formula. Payments to farmers in 1950 amounted to approximately £1,333,333, the gross return to the farmer per acre averaging around £37.

Sugar has been exported since the beginning of the war under arrangements made between the sugar producers and the United Kingdom Government. (For details of these arrangements see Appendix, page 273.)

From the export price of raw sugar a sum of £2 5s. per ton has been paid since 1947 into special funds as follows : to the Price Stabilisation Fund £1 5s., to the Capital Rehabilitation Fund £1, and to the Labour Welfare

Digitized by Google

Fund 5s. Payments have been made from the Rehabilitation Fund to assist rehabilitation of factories and there has been some expenditure from the Labour Welfare Fund on the provision of medical, educational and housing facilities in the sugar areas. Each of these funds is administered by a statutory board established for the purpose.

Exports of sugar since 1939 have been :—

EXPORTS OF SUGAR

	Quantity Tons	*Value f.o.b.*	*Average price f.o.b. per ton*	
		£	£	
1939	103,783	989,563	9·53	
1940	81,469	848,431	10·41	
1941	137,352	1,585,000	11·54	
1942	128,375	1,620,994	12·63	
1943	140,525	1,831,614	13·03	
1944	131,046	1,859,035	14·09	
1945	118,285	1,938,315	16·39	
1946	148,695	2,762,158	18·58	
1947	127,912	2,655,945	—	See Appendix (page 273)
1948	150,835	3,582,163	—	
1949	193,035	4,702,538	—	
1950	222,127	5,933,939	—	

Rum

Under an agreement effective until 1951 the Island's exportable surplus of rum was distributed among 17 primary buyers, nine of them local firms, and the others United Kingdom firms. All rum is sent to what is known as the Rum Pool by the manufacturers, and their association that their tonnage of cane ground bears to the total to above. Out of the gross proceeds from rum and alcohol each manufacturer is paid a manufacturing allowance varying with grade. After expenses are met the proceeds are distributed to manufacturers in the proportion that their tonnage of cane ground bears to the total tonnage ground by all members of the pool. The rum pool has been in existence since 1932.

Exports of rum for a series of years have been :—

EXPORTS OF RUM

	Quantity liquid gallons	*Value*	*f.o.b. price*
		£	£ s. d.
1938	899,821	247,892	5 6
1939	839,467	247,047	5 11
1940	1,065,720	338,286	6 4
1941	442,003	264,675	12 0
1942	415,469	379,633	18 3
1943	412,667	462,371	1 2 5
1944	561,687	605,101	1 1 7
1945	829,434	780,025	18 10
1946	1,995,040	1,973,972	19 9
1947	2,306,119	2,510,344	1 2 3
1948	1,869,924	2,043,750	1 1 10
1949	1,640,864	1,292,768	15 9
1950	2,363,090	1,559,414	13 3

Owing to the difficulties of increasing exports of rum to the United Kingdom and to the competition from whisky in the United States of America in recent years a considerable surplus of molasses (from which rum is distilled) may be expected as sugar production increases. It is proposed to extend the manufacture of alcohol from molasses for use locally as a motor spirit.

Bananas

This crop for many years occupied first place among Jamaica's exports, but Leaf Spot and Panama diseases have made serious inroads into the industry. However, a vigorous campaign against leaf spot disease has been pursued for years by the Leaf Spot Control Board, and at the same time laboratory work has been proceeding with a view to discovering a variety immune to the diseases. The Lacatan variety is immune to Panama disease, and with its acceptance by the British Ministry of Food on an equal footing with Gros Michel, the prospects of the banana industry are becoming better.

The area under bananas is estimated at around 65,000 acres. There has been some expansion of acreage in the last few years, although it is still much below pre-war. Bananas are grown in all districts, but the most suitable soils are on the coastal plain. The spread of the banana diseases, however, has led to planting on the more elevated inland areas. The crop is grown both on estates and small holdings. On some of the estates irrigation is practised in the drier areas. On the smaller properties there is little cultivation, the crop usually being grown with food and other fruit trees. Yields vary greatly. On irrigated lands 250–300 stems per acre can be expected, while on non-irrigated land yield is probably less than 100 stems per acre.

During the war the Government took over the marketing of bananas. As a measure of relief the United Kingdom Government purchased the exportable surplus of bananas which could not be sent to the United Kingdom owing to lack of shipping ; after the war shipments to the United Kingdom and to Canada were resumed. The Commissioner of Commerce and Industries is the sole exporter of bananas, and the three banana companies, namely, the United Fruit Company, the Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, Limited, and the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, Limited, act as buying agents for the Commissioner of Commerce and Industries. Bananas are now marketed in the United Kingdom under a contract with the Ministry of Food, which expires in 1954. Under that contract at least 85 per cent. of the exportable surplus of Jamaica bananas are to be shipped to the United Kingdom at a price which is negotiated annually with the Ministry. The price from 1948 to 1951 has been £32 per ton, f.o.b. Kingston, growers receiving 7s. 10d. per count bunch* in 1950 and 1951 after the deduction of cesses for spraying, banana insurance, and for defraying the expenses of the All Island Banana Growers' Association.

The chief purpose of the Banana Industry Insurance Scheme is to protect the industry and to avoid the necessity of recurrent appeals to the Government for resuscitation loans or grants after windstorms. Insurance is compulsory and the cess on all bananas purchased for export is deducted from growers at the time of delivery of bananas. In the event of loss by hurricane or storm growers are compensated according to the percentage loss suffered. No compensation is given for losses below 40 per cent. To meet losses incurred in the 1951 hurricane and to assist rehabilitation the insurance and reserve funds have been supplemented by £500,000 from the Government.

Banana growers are well organised in the All-Island Banana Growers' Association, which has done much towards the restoration of banana production in recent years. The Government, in collaboration with the Association, has undertaken the distribution of Lacatan suckers and in addition has made available monies from the Banana Reserve Fund for loans to growers to expand banana cultivation. No reliable figures of total production are available, but it is estimated at between nine and ten million stems. The following table shows exports of bananas since 1938 :—

* Bananas are graded according to the number of hands on a stem, a payable or "count" bunch having nine hands (each hand with at least 12 fingers). The conversion factors for calculating prices are :

A stem with nine hands = 1 count, 8 hands = $\frac{3}{4}$ count, 7 hands = $\frac{1}{2}$ count, 6 hands = $\frac{1}{4}$ count.

The ruling price is quoted as so much per count bunch and the price for smaller bunches calculated according to the equivalents quoted above.

Digitized by Google

EXPORTS OF BANANAS

Year	Exports		Average Export Price
	Quantity	Value	
	(stems)	£	s. d.
1938	23,811,337	2,916,956	2 5
1939	18,771,628	2,439,177	2 7
1940	6,849,042	1,045,480	3 0
1941	5,588,555	900,696	3 3
1942	1,347,324	273,204	4 0
1943	288,953	47,278	3 3
1944*	1,117,015	198,285	3 7
1945*	1,796,903	359,205	4 0
1946	5,812,640	1,630,742	5 7
1947	5,519,526	2,049,259	7 4
1948	6,095,038	2,321,064	7 7
1949	6,563,378	2,270,507	6 11
1950	5,772,679	2,115,720	7 4

* Production seriously affected by hurricane of August, 1944.

Tobacco

The acreage under tobacco, which is mostly grown by small farmers, is not known. Much of the leaf is only crudely prepared and is used for local consumption. A number of small planters have for many years grown a limited amount of cigar leaf for sale to local cigar factories.

In recent years manufacturing interests have endeavoured to improve the efficiency of the industry by a reorganisation of field and purchasing arrangements. In 1949 there was a marked improvement in the standard and efficiency of cultivation and the quality of leaf. Trials are being extended on the production of Virginian tobacco.

Tobacco exports are almost entirely in the form of cigars. The growth of tobacco exports during the war and post-war years resulted mainly from the cessation of cigar imports into the United Kingdom from Cuba. However, there has been a considerable weakening of the demand in recent years, due largely to the increased rate of import duty imposed on the entry of cigars into the United Kingdom. Production and export of cigars have been as follows :—

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CIGARS

Year	Production	Export
April 1–March 31	000	000
1939–40	4,032	1,449
1940–41	4,934	1,984
1941–42	5,657	3,801
1942–43	7,730	5,647
1943–44	13,199	8,986
1944–45	13,650	7,805
1945–46	21,904	10,411
1946–47	32,481	21,320
1947–48	43,720	28,200
1948–49	29,591	14,514
1949–50	7,653	13,048

(100 cigars are estimated to weigh 2 lb. For value and volume of exports by calendar year see table on page 151.)

Cocoa

Jamaica is well suited for the cultivation of cocoa because of climatic conditions and freedom from disease. (Swollen shoot, which is making serious inroads into the West African cocoa industry, and witches broom, which is a serious menace in the Eastern Caribbean and in Northern South America, are unknown in Jamaica.) Cocoa, however, is only a minor crop and is grown mostly in small holdings. The total area under cocoa is probably under 20,000 acres. Yields are generally low. During the last century cocoa cultivation flourished in Jamaica, but towards the end of that century increasing attention began to be paid to banana cultivation which offered better returns. High world prices have recently encouraged interest in the industry and the Government is sponsoring a cocoa propagating scheme to make expansion possible.

Government has been bulk-purchasing cocoa almost continuously since 1942 ; since then prices have been fixed by Government with a view to the equitable distribution between growers and dealers of the profits arising from cocoa transactions. Jamaica Cocoa Products, Ltd., absorbed some 60 per cent. of the 1950 crop in the manufacture of cocoa butter and powder. By agreement with pre-war cocoa exporters, the Commissioner of Commerce and Industries is the sole exporter of Jamaica cocoa. Most of the exports go to Canada. The Department of Commerce and Industries operates a clearing house for processing exportable cocoa in order to maintain a high standard of quality without which it is impossible to compete in world markets. When good cocoa prices prevail the Department of Commerce and Industries builds up a reserve in order to protect growers from the effects of a sharp decline in prices. Production statistics are not available, but exports for a series of years have been as follows :—

EXPORTS OF COCOA

Year	Quantity (lb.)	Value	Average Export Price (100 lb.)
		£	s. d.
1938	5,282,484	47,020	17 10
1939	5,184,682	48,447	18 8
1940	2,038,553	26,533	26 0
1941	4,921,548	90,983	37 0
1942	4,689,128	106,112	45 3
1943	4,830,357	109,352	45 3
1944	4,581,380	103,461	45 2
1945	1,995,871	41,870	41 11
1946	3,191,256	69,919	43 10
1947	3,575,035	143,111	80 1
1948	4,221,176	351,366	166 5
1949	4,118,725	203,879	99 0
1950	2,428,545	204,028	168 0

Pimento

Jamaica is almost the sole supplier of pimento, a pungent spice used for flavouring meat and other foods. The pimento tree is indigenous to Jamaica. Most of the trees from which the crop is derived grow wild in the grasslands of the limestone area and are used to provide shade for stock as well as for their fruit. Since 1942 Government has bulk-purchased pimento at rates fixed from year to year, varying with world prices. The following table shows the quantity and value of pimento exported :—

EXPORTS OF PIMENTO

Year	Quantity (lb.)	Value	Average Export Price (100 lb.)
		£	s. d.
1938	8,676,752	207,070	47 9
1939	8,044,512	207,073	51 6
1940	3,506,048	119,152	68 0
1941	3,246,992	151,662	93 5
1942	3,978,128	212,229	106 8
1943	5,061,840	236,500	93 5
1944	2,940,560	137,720	93 8
1945	5,310,368	233,832	88 1
1946	3,978,688	185,651	93 4
1947	3,319,794	155,176	93 6
1948	4,852,983	223,576	92 2
1949	8,536,611	405,414	94 11
1950	4,419,566	290,683	164 2

Citrus

Conditions in many parts of the island are exceptionally favourable for citrus growing, especially on the limestone plateau. The 1943 census recorded about 10,000 acres under citrus but acreage has since expanded considerably. Citrus is mostly grown on small holdings, but some of the larger citrus companies own plantations. The growers are well organised in the Citrus Growers' Association which owns one of the largest packing plants. The growth in the Association's business is shown by the following figures of number of boxes of citrus handled :—

Digitized by Google

'000 boxes	1946–7	1947–8	1948–9	1949–50
	422·7	639·3	875·9	925·0

Oranges are the principal crop, followed by grapefruit and tangerines. Limes are also grown.

The production and export of oranges and grapefruit for a series of years are shown below :—

ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT

	(000 *boxes*)				
	1936–9	1946	1947	1948	1949
Oranges—					
Production	435	565	760	763	750
Exports	275	83	101	118	140
Grapefruit—					
Production	213	300	290	321	586
Exports	145	30	70	129	175

In addition to the exports of fresh fruit shown above there have been considerable quantities of citrus pulp exported. During the war most citrus exports were in this form but pulp exports have declined recently.

EXPORTS OF CITRUS PULP

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
000 tons ..	16·4	17·2	14·5	4·7	7·0	3·8	8·9	3·1
£000	309·1	336·5	272·8	93·4	140·6	93·2	209·3	74·3

Exports of orange and grapefruit juices were :—

EXPORTS OF FRUIT JUICE

	1938	1945	1947	1948	1949
Orange juice					
000 gals.	27·7	203·5	74·8	556·3	496·8
£000	1·4	98·0	26·8	141·8	210·9
Grapefruit juice					
000 gals. ..	21·4	258·9	127·3	191·0	235·3
£000	1·1	69·5	38·9	46·8	53·5

Other citrus products exported include citrus peel, lime oil, orange oil and marmalade. The total value of all citrus products exported in 1949 was approximately £1,000,000. In 1950 the Citrus Growers' Association entered into a ten-year contract with the United Kingdom Ministry of Food to supply canned welfare juices (orange) amounting to 2,750 tons a year. The Association has erected a modern processing plant and is conducting an island-wide campaign to promote the top-working, i.e., grafting of sweet orange on to existing plants.

Up to the 1948/9 season the Department of Commerce and Industries was the sole exporter of citrus, which was sold practically entirely to the United Kingdom, a small quantity going to New Zealand. Now the Citrus Growers' Association has the sole right to export fresh citrus fruit.

Coffee

Jamaican coffee is a minor crop, but it once enjoyed a unique reputation for its flavour and quality. In the last ten years production has been rapidly declining, partly owing to the devastating effects of soil erosion in the upland areas. Coffee is grown in the more elevated areas of the Island, mainly but not entirely on small holdings. There are two main types (both Arabica), the high grade Blue Mountain coffee whose cultivation is confined to the high lands of the Blue Mountain area, and the ordinary or lowland grades grown throughout the Island, mainly on the limestone plateau. The area under coffee is thought to be around 17,000 acres and total production between five and six million lb. annually. The amount of Blue Mountain coffee grown is relatively small.

Blue Mountain coffee is processed by the estates which buy the cherry from smallholders. Dry fermentation is practised and there is careful grading. Lowland coffee is of a low grade and largely consumed locally. Steps were taken by the Government in the early war years to attempt to rehabilitate the industry.

In 1943 as a result of a brief survey of the industry the Commissioner of Commerce and Industries was made the sole exporter of coffee and a Coffee Clearing House was established for bulk-purchasing and grading coffee. Later pulperies and nurseries were set up and large numbers of seedlings distributed free. The *Coffee Industry Regulation Law*, 1948, was enacted for the control of the industry under the direction of a Statutory Board. Practically the entire exportable surplus is sold to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food under a five-year agreement which commenced 1st January, 1948.

Exports since 1938 have been :—

EXPORTS OF COFFEE

Year	*Quantity. Bags of 132 lb.*	*Value*	*Average Export Price per Bag*
		£	s. d.
1938	71,685	132,907	37 1
1939	63,267	146,047	46 2
1940	45,260	113,847	50 4
1941	34,789	111,903	64 4
1942	40,192	139,727	69 6
1943	31,770	113,081	71 2
1944	36,356	196,503	108 1
1945	42,556	237,563	111 8
1946	16,881	106,362	126 0
1947	23,196	138,313	119 3
1948	23,341	128,911	110 6
1949	18,975	131,115	138 3
1950	22,518	341,416	303 3

Ginger

There are approximately 1,600 acres under ginger, which is grown in the elevated areas on fairly small holdings. Jamaica ginger has for long commanded good markets because of its quality. Most ginger is now exported to the United States for use in the manufacture of concentrates for drinks.

Exports since 1938 have been :—

EXPORTS OF GINGER

Year	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Average f.o.b. price per 100 lb.*
	lb.	£	s. d.
1938	2,930,573	50,939	35 1
1939	3,323,122	40,571	24 5
1940	2,571,492	46,797	36 3
1941	2,376,919	72,828	61 3
1942	1,845,226	125,213	135 8
1943	2,518,651	124,535	98 11
1944	3,248,745	159,179	98 0
1945	3,257,534	151,530	93 0
1946	3,888,979	160,115	82 4
1947	3,441,340	119,583	69 6
1948	3,124,007	124,606	79 9
1949	2,139,818	130,440	121 11
1950	2,588,828	340,780	263 3

Digitized by Google

Forestry

There are some 280,000 acres of forest reserve. These forest areas are 90 per cent. protective and 10 per cent. productive. (The productive areas have been overworked and little mature timber now remains.) It is estimated that private woodlands bring the total forest lands of the Colony up to nearly 500,000 acres.

Much of the original forest was cut out in the early days of colonisation and the remainder has been subjected to unregulated felling resulting in denudation and erosion. It was not until 1937 that a Forest Law was passed providing for the protection and management of forest areas. The acreage under reserve has been extended in recent years and the Government has undertaken a reafforestation programme. By 1949, 4,262 acres had been planted and eventually it is hoped to increase this area to 15,000 acres. Seedlings are also supplied from Government nurseries to private property owners, free of charge in certain circumstances. Forest products were once an important Jamaican export but are now limited to occasional shipments of logwood, fustic and ebony.

The forests are mostly composed of hardwoods among which are mahogany (*sweetenia mahogoni*), logwood (*haematoxifin campechianum*), cedar (*juniperus lucayana*), ebony (*brya ebenus*), lignum vitae (*guaiacum officinale*), and greenheart (*zizuphus chloroxylum*). A wide range of local hardwoods are used in building construction for footings, primitive floorings and shingles; Jamaica mahogany is used for high grade furniture and cedar for cupboards, etc., and a certain amount of high grade marquetry is done with local woods. Other uses are railway sleepers, telegraph poles, cart and truck loaders, boat building, matches, tool handles and water tubs. All softwoods used, however, are imported and so are certain hardwoods. Wood is used very extensively for fuel in Jamaica for domestic and for some industrial purposes. The large sugar factories use bagasse but the small "wet" factories are run entirely on wood fuel. Charcoal is used for "coal pot" cooking, heating irons, etc.

Fisheries

The fisheries of Jamaica have not been developed on a commercial basis. Fish caught represents less than 15 per cent. of the protein fish food consumed in Jamaica. The large imports of fish are mainly in the form of dried salted cod. There is little prospect of any large increase in the local catch (estimated at around 12,000,000 lb. a year) since local waters are thought to be already overfished.

A potential source of supply is the series of banks and cays stretching from Jamaica in a west-southwest direction through the Pedro Cays to the Mosquita Cays of Central America and exploitation of this area has begun. Another possible source is the Caicos Islands.

The methods used by local fishermen are line fishing for bottom fish and trolling for kingfish, mackerel and bonito; pot fishing and net fishing (seine, gill and cast nets). Relatively simple equipment is used and none of the fishing boats are equipped with engines.

At the end of 1949 a Fisheries Division of the Forest Department was created and a Fisheries Officer appointed. Among the functions of the Division are the improvement of deep-sea fishing, the encouragement of Fishermen's Co-operatives, the examination of possibilities of new fish food industries, the development of fish culture and the encouragement of commercial fishing on the Morant and Pedro Banks.

Minerals

The last geological survey of Jamaica was made in 1921–4, but a new survey was commenced in 1949.

The only mineral at present worked in Jamaica is gypsum, although preparations for large scale mining of bauxite are under way. It is known that deposits of copper, iron, lead, zinc, chrome, limestone, ochres, phosphates and manganese occur, but whether they do so in payable quantities depends on further geological investigation and on world prices.

Gypsum

This is worked on an open quarry system, as only surface deposits are worked. After crushing most of the gypsum is transported by road to load into ships. Some is used locally for the manufacture of building materials, and it is hoped to build up an export trade in gypsum products in the Caribbean area.

Total gypsum resources are estimated at approximately 84 million tons.

Bauxite

Estimates of reserves vary widely. Reserves so far encountered on properties controlled by the three bauxite companies operating in Jamaica have recently been estimated at some 130 million tons on a moisture-free basis, and total reserves are estimated at 200 to 300 million tons. Deposits occur mainly in the parishes of St. Ann, St. Elizabeth and Manchester, and were discovered in 1942. The three companies proposing to extract bauxite are Jamaica Bauxite Limited (a subsidiary of the Aluminium Company of Canada) Reynolds Jamaica Mines Limited (a subsidiary of the Reynolds Metal Company of the United States of America), and the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation. The first proposes to manufacture alumina in Jamaica and the others to ship ore to the United States of America. The E.C.A. have contracted to make advances to Jamaica Bauxite Limited and to the Reynolds Jamaica Mines Limited. Repayment will take the form of shipments of aluminium and bauxite to the United States of America for stockpiling for a period of 11½ years. The Jamaica Bauxite plant, which will have a production capacity of about 100 tons of alumina (semi-processed bauxite) a day, capable of enlargement to 1,000 tons a day, is expected to be completed at the end of 1953. Reynolds Jamaica Mines Limited plan to export 750,000 tons, and the Kaiser Company 650,000 tons, of bauxite a year. Total E.C.A. advances for the development of the bauxite industry in Jamaica amount to $11·7 million and £3·3 million (sterling counterpart). It is hoped that the industry will be in a position to export three million tons of bauxite per annum within ten years.

Copper

The ores commonly occurring at depth are grey sulphide ores, bornite and chalcocite containing as high as 70–80 per cent. copper. Attempts were made to mine copper in the 19th century, but with no financial success.

Iron

Although high grade deposits exist their extent is not accurately known.

Lead and zinc

Lead and zinc in a combined state are known to occur a few miles from Kingston and were worked many years ago. A geophysical survey is needed to determine the extent of deposits. Deposits of lead ores have been found in some districts but they are thought to be small.

Chrome

Small quantities have been found in the serpentine rock at the base of the Blue Mountains, but the extent of total deposits is unknown.

Petroleum

Occurrence of this is unlikely, but further investigation is desirable.

Manganese

Manganese ores are known to exist in the parish of Portland.

Limestone and Clay

Very high quality deposits exist and plans for a cement industry based on local limestone were nearing completion in 1951.

Gold and Silver

Deposits occur in combination with other minerals.

Other minerals known to occur are *ochres*, *talc* and *phosphate* (in the form of rock and as bat guano in caves) and possibly radio-active minerals. It is thought that the

Digitized by Google

mineral resources of Jamaica may have considerable potentialities, but obviously a proper geological and geophysical survey is necessary to determine their extent and their commercial possibilities.

All mineral rights are vested in the Crown. With certain exceptions which are specified in the Law, Government controls the prospecting and mining of all minerals under the *Mining Laws and Regulations* of 1947. (See *Law 38 of 1947—The Minerals Law.*) All lands belonging to Government which are being transferred to private interests bear a restrictive covenant reserving to Government all the mineral rights thereon. The only minerals on which royalties have been fixed are bauxite and laterite. The royalty is 1s. a ton.

Manufactures

Although Jamaica's economy is basically agricultural there has been a steady growth in manufacturing industries, particularly in recent years. Most of these produce mainly for the local market at present, but it is hoped to build up an export market, particularly in the Caribbean area.

For many years there have been important processing factories—sugar and rum, citrus canning, edible oil, cigar and cigarette factories, and a number of minor industries such as the brewing of beer and aerated waters, and the manufacture of matches, clothing, shoes, cosmetics, rope, furniture, bricks, tiles, etc. The difficulties in getting supplies from overseas during the war stimulated local manufacture—a soap and margarine industry based mainly on local copra, a cornmeal factory based partly on local corn, and a condensed milk factory which now supplies all the island's needs. More recently with the passing of the *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* (see page 124) a number of new industries commenced operations including the manufacture of gypsum products, hypocrete (pre-cast lightweight wood/cement building units based on bagasse, sawdust and other waste), wire-bound box-shooks (for containers for island produce), laundry blue, tool handles, nails, salt, carbon dioxide gas, anhydrous alcohol, jelly crystals, cocoa products, pre-stressed concrete, plastics, and metal containers. A large new textile factory for the spinning and weaving of cotton goods came into operation in 1951. It contains 336 looms and 9,600 spindles and it is hoped to produce 14 million yards of cotton piece goods a year, roughly half Jamaica's annual consumption. A new cement plant, which began production early in 1952, will have an output of 100,000 tons a year.

Statistics of industrial production are available only for certain commodities which are liable for excise duty. The following table shows the growth which has taken place since 1940 in a number of these industries, excluding those whose output has been shown elsewhere.

A survey made in 1948 showed that there were approximately 700 factories and workshops in Jamaica. Of this total 25 were public utilities and many of the factories were very small—175 were bakeries and the like. Nearly half of the factories were in the Kingston area. If these establishments with less than five workers are excluded, the number employed in factories was around 19,000.

The Government is trying to stimulate industrial development not only by the concessions given under the *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* but by the provision of factory sites. In the West Kingston Industrial Estate of 630 acres, 303 acres have been zoned as building sites for industrial and commercial purposes. These sites may be leased for 99 years. Rentals for sites up to 1964 will vary according to location, ranging from £20 to £50 per acre per annum and thereafter 4 per cent. of the unimproved value. (For further details see the brochure issued by Jamaican Government—" Invest in Jamaica ".)

The Government has recently set up an Industrial Loans Board to make funds available to small industrial enterprises.

Some indication of new capital investment is given by the registration of new companies and changes in capital of old companies—see page 146. Not all of this represents " manufacturing " investment, however, and investment expenditure financed from company reserves will not of course appear in the table.

The Government has power under the *Safeguarding of Local Industries Law* (see page 124) to make the operation of particular industries subject to licence and this has been done in the case of condensed milk, matches, film production and cement. Licencing is usually accompanied by restrictions or duties on the importation of similar goods. It is not intended to make use of these powers to any extent in the future as a means of encouraging investment.

Village Industries

Handicrafts are encouraged by the Jamaica Social Welfare Commission. There is one manufacturing centre in Kingston and ten in other parishes, and groups are organized in about 100 villages. Products include dress accessories, mats, rugs, baskets, trays, briad and leather goods. There are some 2,000 cottagers engaged in the work. Among raw materials used are sisal, jippi-jappa, thatch, lily and coconut and banana fibre. During 1950 the Jamaica Welfare Cottage Industries Agency Limited marketed products purchased direct from cottagers to the value of £15,000.

Other Economic Activities

Tourism

This has for long been an important source of income to the territory and is one of the major sources of dollar income. Jamaica is within three hours flight of Miami, Florida, and has direct air communications with Canada.

VOLUME AND WHOLESALE VALUE OF PRODUCTION OF CERTAIN SPECIFIED COMMODITIES, 1940–50

Commodity	*Unit*	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Beer	'000 galls.	168	283	311	307	442	547	743	891	1,191	696	797
	£000	61	103	98	133	166	208	291	323	421	255	484
Tobacco—	'000,000	261	308	351	376	369	390	424	415	438	422	427
cigarettes	£000	435	513	585	705	642	1,056	1,148	1,123	1,198	1,583	1,681
Soap	'000 lb.	2,442	7,397	8,702	9,687	9,763	10,082	8,255	8,708	9,920	11,904	11,708
	£000	35	35	178	236	284	372	306	374	535	531	528
Margarines and	'000 lb.	1,563	2,108	2,282	2,487	3,332	2,589	2,712	1,890	2,451	3,164	2,371
Butterine ..	£000	52	74	88	107	152	166	201	138	183	236	321
Lard	'000 lb.	994	1,628	1,727	2,032	2,465	2,121	2,204	1,811	2,232	3,233	2,602
	£000	26	50	61	81	107	121	148	124	154	224	145
Edible Oil ..	'000 galls.	334	489	565	621	672	478	459	512	344	316	561
	£000	64	100	134	159	182	160	171	207	149	179	260
Aerated Waters	'000 galls.	532	776	676	656	818	1,198	1,645	1,632	2,003	2,397	2,087
	£000	120	175	128	148	184	270	370	367	440	570	522
Cornmeal ..	'000 lb.	9,094	8,449	10,866	6,066	3,638	555	1,604	11,133	9,441	10,855	11,046
	£000	69	66	82	47	25	4	13	163	168	192	172
Condensed Milk	'000 lb.	1,532	3,172	3,378	3,342	3,912	5,052	5,964	7,954	9,724	11,634	11,901
	£000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	149	191	294	402	502	502	645
Matches ..	50 gross	3,000	4,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,049	3,841	4,251
	£000	56	73	67	98	97	89	99	111	104	106	117

Digitized by Google

It is thought that the provision of more steamship services from the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom would lead to a considerable increase in the number of tourists. Approximately 75,000 persons visted the island in 1950 and the colony's earnings from this source are thought to have been over £3 million in that year.

In recent years several new hotels have been opened. Jamaica has an equable climate and presents a wide variety of scenery, from tropical beaches to mineral springs and mountains rising to 7,000 feet, and is also well served by roads. The expansion of the hotel trade is encouraged by the special concessions given in remission of customs duties on equipment and income tax relief (see page 124). Since the war two new large hotels have been opened on the north side of the island, one accommodating 80 and the other 160 persons.

There is a Tourist Trade Development Board, which gets substantial grants from the Government to carry out advertising and publicity services and to maintain information Bureaux in Jamaica, the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada.

Distributive Trade

The three main groups involved in the distribution of goods in Jamaica, including the various marketing agencies run by producers associations and by the Government, are distributors, wholesalers and retailers. Many firms, of course, combine several of these functions.

Distributors are generally manufacturers' agents who are largely engaged in financing imports. The number of registered wholesalers (who normally place orders through the distributor) is around 200. All imports handled by distributors and wholesalers must be licenced, but most goods from sterling area sources are now on open general licence. Under war-time controls both distributors and wholesalers received quotas of foodstuffs, etc., which were in short supply, and both still have their margins of profit fixed either on a maximum percentage or maximum profit basis. The number of retail shops in the island is thought to be around 35,000. The maximum price at which most consumer goods may be sold is fixed by the Trade Control Department. Local foodstuffs are for the most part retailed in stalls at the public markets which abound throughout the island. There are also a number of itinerant traders.

Professions

The approximate numbers in the principal professions and the standards required, are as follows :—

	Number	*Standard*
Doctors	340	Same standard as fixed by the British Medical Association.
Dentists	90	
Nurses	1,400	Undergo three year course at the Government General Hospital, for midwifery a further nine months.
Veterinary Surgeons ..	20	As in United Kingdom.
Barristers	38	As in United Kingdom.
Judges and Magistrates	23	As in United Kingdom.
Lawyers	200	Fixed by Law Society's Examiners in United Kingdom.
Engineers :		
Civil	55	Similar to standards pertaining in United Kingdom.
Electrical	5	
Mechanical	15	
Teachers, Male ..	1,200	Elementary teachers undergo training at two Government maintained Training Colleges and two other denominational Colleges. Secondary education to Public School standard.
Female ..	3,100	
Architects	7	As in United Kingdom.
Opticians	24	

Co-operative Movement

The history of the Co-operative Movement in Jamaica falls naturally into two distinct periods ; the first ending in 1938, and the second commencing in 1939.

Of the first period it can be said that there was little systematic attempt to develop the Movement. There were small ventures in Consumer Societies, but they failed through lack of co-operative education and failure to adhere to recognised co-operative principles. In the field of co-operative marketing, the most important of the earliest efforts was the Jamaica Banana Producers' Association, formed in 1929. This was an ambitious attempt to establish a co-operative marketing organization of thousands of banana growers, but it failed as a co-operative due to fierce competition from a large American trading firm, and failure to educate its 15,000 members without whose interest and loyalty the Association had never become truly co-operative.

The most important development of the period was the establishment of the People's Co-operative Banks registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Law 1902 and supervised by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board. The first Bank was registered in 1905, and development proceeded slowly until Government set up the Agricultural Loan Societies Board in 1912.

These Banks are organised by the residents, particularly small farmers, within a specified area, to enable them to secure loans for co-operative, agricultural and industrial objects. Under the supervision of the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, loans are made available to them by Government for the purposes indicated, as well as for special purposes such as rehabilitation loans in times of national disaster ; the Board lends to the Banks at 3 per cent. per annum, and the Banks to their members at from 6 to 7½ per cent. per annum.

The second period marks the beginning of a new era in co-operative development, as the first systematic effort was made to study and develop the movement, with the deliberate intention of avoiding the mistakes of the past. As a result, rapid strides were made particularly in the fields of credit, consumer co-operative and marketing—the development of which led to the formation of three Co-operative Central Organizations—the Jamaica Credit Union League, the Jamaica Co-operative Union and the Jamaica Poultry and Farmers' Federation. This development is in great measure due to the work of Jamaica Welfare Limited (now Jamaica Social Welfare Commission), and the St. George's College Extension School Co-operative Department which are now the recognized Bodies for the promotion of Co-operatives.

By the end of 1942, the need for all the agencies concerned to co-ordinate their efforts in extending the work had become apparent, and the Jamaica Co-operative Development Council was formed for the purpose of co-ordinating and supervising all co-operative development. The present position is that the educational and organizing work amongst co-operative bodies falls mainly on the general promoting bodies and the Co-operative Central Organization mentioned above, and their work is co-ordinated through the Jamaica Co-operative Development Council on which they are represented.

The main types of co-operative organizations which have so far developed or are showing signs of development are as follows :—

Savings Unions, for the inculcation of thrift through the habit of systematic and regular saving. These are adaptable to any form of further co-operative development. There were some 5,000 members of eight such groups at the end of 1949.

Co-operative Credit Societies, the aim of which is to provide a sound system of credit at reasonable rates of interest for the productive needs of small producers or craftsmen. There are at present two distinct types of Credit Societies in existence—the People's Co-operative Banks which are predominantly rural and agricultural, and are used

Digitized by Google

mainly as Loan Institutions (as the major part of the funds is provided by Government through the Agricultural Loan Societies Board these cannot strictly be called co-operative institutions), and the Credit Unions of North American origin, which are largely urban, and which build up their working capital out of the accumulated savings of their members.

Consumers' Co-operative Societies. These follow the usual pattern.

Co-operative Marketing Societies, the objects of which are to increase returns to producers by economies of large scale marketing, grading, and packing, and by stimulating improvements in the quality of products.

Co-operative Purchasing Societies, which exist for the purpose of buying seeds, fertilisers, tools, etc., for their members.

Consumer and Credit Societies predominate in the urban areas, while in the rural areas societies often group together various functions, and there is emerging a type of General Purpose Society which will undertake the supply of goods and services necessary to the development of a sound rural economy.

In order to provide a proper basis for co-operative development and the necessary financial safeguards to meet this most urgent need, the *Co-operative Societies Law of 1949* made provision for the constitution, registration and control of co-operative societies. Prior to this, co-operative societies had to register under the *Industrial and Provident Societies Law of 1902*, which was considered inadequate. The *Law of 1949*, among other things, provides for :—

(i) A separate register for Co-operative Societies, and the acquisition of legal status by these societies under a Law specifically designed to suit their need ;

(ii) The appointment of a Registrar of Co-operative Societies with such powers of supervision, inspection and audit, as are necessary to ensure adequate control of co-operative societies ;

(iii) Special privileges from the State, to Societies designed to encourage co-operative development, including exemption from income tax and certain stamp duties.

To give effect to the provisions of the Law, Government established at the end of 1949 a Co-operative Department under a trained Registrar charged with the duty of guiding and assisting the development of the Movement.

No reliable up-to-date statistics of the Jamaican Co-operative movement are available. The following figures are available for 1948 and tentative figures are given for 1950 :—

CO-OPERATIVE STATISTICS, 1950

	Number	*Membership*	*Share Capital*
			£
Consumers' Societies ..	20	4,129	10,931
Credit (Co-operative Bank and Credit Unions) ..	157	75,511	162,274
Marketing Societies ..	22	5,620	5,324
General Purpose	4	355	2,198
	203	85,615	£180,727

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

For details of employment by main industries as shown in the census of 1943 see page 120. There is no established machinery for the compilation of reliable statistics of employment and labour supply in Jamaica, but certain estimates have been made in recent years on the basis of census figures.

At the end of 1950 the estimated number of persons gainfully occupied in the principal industries (wage earners, employers, workers on own account, etc.) was :—

	000s
Agriculture	253·0
Services (personal, domestic, etc.)..	116·3
Manufacture	67·6
Trade and Commerce	43·9
Construction	39·1
Transport and Communication ..	13·1
Unemployed	34·2
Total	567·2

The estimated numbers of *wage earners* as at March of each year for a series of years were :—

	000s
1939 ..	266·3
1940 ..	270·9
1941 ..	275·5
1942 ..	280·1
1943 ..	284·6
1944 ..	289·2
1945 ..	293·8
1946 ..	298·4
1947 ..	303·0
1948 ..	307·3
1949 ..	313·1
1950 ..	319·4

CO-OPERATIVE STATISTICS, 1948

Classification	*Number*	*Membership*	*Share Capital*	*Business*
			£	
Savings Unions	256	4,200	11,500 Savings	—
Peoples' Co-operative Banks	119	72,700	122,803	£153,139 loans issued in 1948
Credit Unions	34	3,000	30,000	£110,000 loans
Consumers' Co-operative Societies (including a Co-operative Wholesale Society)..	19	5,500	9,000	£62,760 sales
Buying Clubs	56	3,000	500	£9,000 sales
Egg Co-operatives	47	2,000	650	£17,700 sales (106,468 dozens)
Tomato Growers' Co-operatives	19	6,000	500	£100,000 sales in 1948
Milk Marketing Groups	21	448	—	£9,653 6s. 8d. sales (115,840 gallons)
Co-operative Purchasing Societies	16	500	150	£950 purchases
Cottage Industries Groups	12	350	—	£5,944 sales of manufactured products

Digitized by Google

The estimated distribution of wage earners as between industries, as at March, 1950, was :—

	000s
Agriculture	120·0
Quarrying and Mining	0·4
Fishing, Forestry	2·6
Electricity, Gas and Water	1·4
Manufacturing and Repair	25·0
Construction	30·9
Transport and Communication	11·3
Trade	12·1
Finance, insurance, real estate	0·8
Services :	
Business and Recreation	1·1
Professional	8·2
Public Administration	11·4
Personal	61·9
Unspecified	32·3
Total	319·4

(No breakdown of these groups is available, but see page 118 for average numbers employed in the sugar industry. Other agricultural industries employing large numbers of people in the crop season are the citrus and banana industries.)

The numbers recorded as employed in *registered factories* in 1949 (as distinct from all manufacturing and repair shown in the previous table) were as follows :—

NUMBER EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED FACTORIES, 1949

Industry	*Number of establishments*	*Numbers Employed*
All Industries included as registered factories	652	19,934
Electricity, water and gas	21	319
Manufacturing	599	19,180
Vegetable products		
Bread, biscuits, confectionery, etc.	*190*	*2,603*
Sugar	*31*	*6,078*
Distilleries	*6*	—
Fruits	*15*	*1,984*
Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes	*3*	*1,476*
Beer and Wine	*15*	*501*
Aerated Waters	*25*	*553*
Coffee	*34*	*466*
Copra	*14*	*508*
Meal, Feed and Vegetable Products	*38*	*199*
Other vegetables	*8*	*83*
Animal Products		
Butter, Cheese condensed with meat products, etc.	*12*	*142*
Leather Products	*23*	*385*
Textile Products	*18*	*873*
Wood and Paper Products		
Furniture	*51*	*327*
Printing and Publishing	*22*	*706*
Other	*42*	*404*
Iron Products and Repairs	*28*	*704*
Chemical Products		
Soap and Toilet	*3*	*370*
Other	*7*	*469*
Miscellaneous		
Brick, tile, lime, plaster, etc.	*5*	*147*
Non-ferrous metal products	*1*	*19*
Other	*8*	*183*
Storage and Transport	3	20
Retail Trade	2	227
Personal Service		
Restaurants, etc.	27	188

As employment in agriculture is generally seasonal, hours worked and earnings fluctuate greatly. In the sugar industry, for example, there are considerable differences between hours worked and earnings "in crop" and "out of crop". No recent figures are available, but a survey made of estates in 1944 showed the following average time worked, and it is not thought that this has since altered greatly :—

HOURS WORKED IN SUGAR INDUSTRY, 1944

	Crop Period		*Out-of-Crop Period*		*Average for the Year*	
	Mean number of man days worked per man	*Equivalent 9-hour days worked weekly*	*Mean number of days worked per man*	*Equivalent 9-hour days worked weekly*	*Mean number of days worked per man*	*Equivalent 9-hour days worked weekly*
All field operations	76	4·1	127	3·8	203	3·9
All factory operations	120	6·5	168	5·0	302	5·8
All operations	85	4·6	138	4·1	223	4·3

Digitized by Google

This survey shows that the average number of days worked per man per year was 203 and the average number of days worked per week per year was 3·9. The average number of days worked per week during the crop period is higher, but the fact that the weeks covered by the crop period only average slightly over one-third of the year reduces the average for the whole year. No recent figures of average earnings in the industry are available.

No recent information is available on earnings in these occupations or in particular industries, but statistics of average yearly gross earnings in various occupations for persons earning £150 per year are published in the Jamaica Quarterly Digest of Statistics (but as, for example, only 20 farm labourers come in the above category it is not much guide to average earnings). The same publication also gives indices of changes in employment, wage rates, and working hours in some selected industries in the Kingston area.

Average wage rates and hours worked in a number of selected industries in 1950 were :—

	Average hours worked
Agriculture	
Sugar workers	
male .. 6s. 3d. to 7s. 0d. per day female 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per day	10 hours per day
Manufacturing	
Vegetable Products	
male .. 58s. 0d. per week	45·2 hours per week
female 37s. 0d. „ „	43·7 „ „ „
Textile	
male .. 63s. 4d. „ „	43·7 „ „ „
female 44s. 0d. „ „	45·4 „ „ „
Construction	
Carpenters, plumbers, masons and painters 40s. to 100s. per week	48 hours per week
Labourers—male 45s. per week	48 „ „ „
Trade and Commerce	
Clerks (senior)	
male .. 175s. 0d. per week	46 „ „ „
female 102s. 6d. „ „	45 „ „ „
Shop Assistants	
male .. 54s. 0d. to 90s. 9d. per week	44 „ „ „
female 36s. 6d. to 59s. 6d. „ „	45·5 „ „ „
Services	
Domestic	
male .. 18s. 0d. per week	62 „ „ „
female 14s. 4d. „ „	68 „ „ „
Hotels	
male .. 46s. 2d. „ „	56·7 „ „ „
female 28s. 5d. „ „	57 „ „ „
General Labour	
General Labourers	
male .. 30s. to 50s. per week	48 „ „ „
female 20s. to 30s. „ „	48 „ „ „

There is considerable unemployment and underemployment in Jamaica, due to the seasonal nature of much agricultural work and the low level of investment compared with the rate of increase of the working population. No recent figures of overall unemployment are available. The census of 1943 showed that the ratio of unemployed to occupied population was 18 per cent., and more recently the falling off in recruitment to the United States of America, the closing of United States bases and the decline in the cigar market have aggravated the problem. A local survey in 1946 disclosed that in 11 town areas alone there were approximately 31,000 unemployed, of whom 23,500 lived in greater Kingston. There is evidence that since the war a large number of unemployed have migrated to the Kingston area, and returning ex-servicemen and farm workers have also settled in Kingston, attracted by its greater amenities. While the problem is an island-wide one it is therefore most serious in Kingston.

The numbers employed in agriculture have been falling for many years (the census of 1921 showed 286,000 employed in this industry and that of 1943, 228,000). This has been due to a number of factors, including mechanisation, scarcity of land and migration of surplus rural population to urban areas. There is even now, however, much under-employment in agriculture. As the expansion of manufacturing and construction has not been sufficient to absorb the growing labour force, unemployment and under-employment have resulted, as well as a disproportionate growth in the numbers employed in service industries. There were over 60,000 employed in personal service in 1950, i.e. nearly 20 per cent. of the total number of wage earners.

In 1952 an Agricultural Development Corporation, which is expected to make some contribution towards the problem of unemployment, was set up by statute.

Migrant Labour

Between 1939 and 1949 approximately 65,000 Jamaicans have been recruited for employment in the United States of America and Panama Canal zone through the Jamaican Labour Department, which is responsible for seeing that the relevant International Labour Conventions are not contravened. (This figure includes the separate journeys of industrial workers who may have been to the U.S.A. in more than one year.)

Details of number of workers migrating to the United States of America and estimated remittances are :—

WORKERS MIGRATING TO U.S.A.

Year	*Number of Workers recruited for work in the U.S.A.*	*Number Repatriated*	*Number remaining in U.S.A. at end of year*	*Estimated value of Remittances by workers from all sources*
				£000
1943	8,827	6,089	2,725	830
1944	16,638	6,110	13,239	1,600
1945	23,153	28,967	7,383	3,770
1946	7,797	9,086	6,084	2,070
1947	1,438	2,883	4,769	1,109
1948	1,361	1,575	3,462	610
1949	1,410	2,809	1,876	745
1950	1,345	1,511	1,297	601

In addition to the workers recruited for work in the United States of America in 1949, some 400 migrated to the United Kingdom at their own expense. Negotiations were proceeding in 1951 to increase the numbers of migrants recruited for work in the United States of America in 1952.

Fuel and Power

Neither coal nor oil has been discovered in Jamaica, so that electric power is mainly dependent on imported fuel, except for some small hydro-electric generators. The sugar factories use local bagasse for fuel, and local firewood is the main source of domestic fuel.

Electric light and power are provided by the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited, a private company which supplies about half of the island, and by a number of small companies operating under licence which supply some of the small towns' lighting needs. (One town is supplied by a local authority.)

Digitized by Google

The Jamaica Public Service Company operates one steam plant at Kingston 9,500 kW. based on fuel oil, three hydro plants—Upper White River (3,500 kW.), Roaring River (4,050 kW.) and Bog Walk (1,050 kW.)—and also several small plants in other areas. The company has erected a second hydro station on the Lower White River (4,750 kW.), and other extensions are planned.

The voltage in the Kingston plant is 2,300 (110/220 consumer voltage) but there are various voltages for various purposes. The whole of the company's system operates at a frequency of 40 cycles per second. Other supplies have a total power output of approximately 1,400 kW. (based on diesel fuel) and primary pressure of 2,300 volts and a frequency of 60 cycles. In addition to the two rivers mentioned there are possibilities of developing a hydro scheme on the Black River in the southwestern corner side of the island. This river's possible power output is around 3,000 kW. There are also smaller rivers which might support schemes, and no proper investigation has been made of the power resources of the Blue Mountains.

The increase in the consumption of electricity in recent years is shown by the following table. Particularly striking is the increase in power consumed in agriculture, partly as a result of the conversion of diesel and electrically driven irrigation plants. The greatest demand for power for these purposes is in the south of the island, where there are very considerable supplies of underground water. The maximum development of these arid areas depends to a large extent on the provision of cheap electric power.

Rates for domestic services in 1951 were :—

First 10 kWH	..	5s.
next 20 ,,	..	5d. per kWH
,, 70 ,,	..	2½d. ,, ,,
,, 200 ,,	..	1½d. ,, ,,
,, 300 ,,	..	1d. ,, ,,

Special rates are quoted for commercial and industrial purposes.

Electricity plants are also operated by the three aluminium companies and the cement company.

There is a gasworks in Kingston, operated by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, which supplies the corporate area and nearer regions of the suburban areas.

Rates for industrial and domestic consumption in 1951 were :—

Up to 5,000 cubic feet	..	14s. 0d. per 1,000
,, ,, 10,000 ,, ,,	..	13s. 6d. ,, ,,
,, ,, 25,000 ,, ,,	..	13s. 0d. ,, ,,
Over 25,000 ,, ,,	..	12s. 6d. ,, ,,

Under 600 cubic feet minimum charge 7s. 6d. per month.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The revenue and expenditure of Jamaica since 1938–9, together with the surplus or deficit at the end of the year, and the accumulated balance and reserve funds, are shown in the table below. Revenue includes revenue from grants from the United Kingdom. After experiencing fairly substantial surpluses since the early years of the war, expenditure began to outstrip revenue in 1948–9, but revenue recovered subsequently, partly as a result of increased customs receipts.

ELECTRICITY GENERATED AND DISTRIBUTED

	Total	Sold for						Used for		Loss in transmission
		Domestic Use	Agricultural Use	Commercial Use	Industrial Use	Government and Military	Street Lighting	Tramways	Other Company needs	
Volume					000 kWH.					
1938	18,073	2,605	2,570	2,858	3,246	1,116	555	2,613	147	2,363
1939	20,277	2,885	2,533	3,224	4,343	1,326	584	2,591	155	2,636
1940	27,047	3,159	6,232	3,341	6,569	1,280	683	2,613	152	3,018
1941	30,029	3,627	6,421	4,263	7,360	1,447	722	2,648	155	3,386
1942	31,498	3,827	5,919	4,339	6,983	3,485	750	2,602	153	3,440
1943	29,152	3,247	3,615	3,279	6,910	4,977	806	2,552	99	3,667
1944	34,718	3,781	6,129	3,698	7,988	5,592	804	2,361	91	4,274
1945	37,492	4,504	6,403	4,248	8,218	5,732	941	2,271	155	5,020
1946	46,439	5,912	10,817	5,208	8,138	5,982	1,075	2,331	191	6,785
1947	51,876	7,105	11,898	6,506	9,083	6,641	1,139	2,165	215	7,124
1948	55,526	8,984	12,859	8,094	8,841	4,723	1,413	988	933	8,691
1949	66,635	10,075	18,451	10,000	10,001	4,477	1,487	—	977	11,167
1950	76,038	11,455	20,428	11,596	13,621	3,855	1,641	—	1,034	12,408

Electric Light and Power Companies operate under a franchise from the Central Government.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND RESERVE FUNDS

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Surplus+ or Deficit—	Accumulated Surplus Balance at end of Financial Year	Reserve Fund	Insurance Fund
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938–39 (31 Mar.)	2,840,142	2,854,021	— 13,879	207,305	137,361	164,951
1939–40 ..	3,082,208	3,164,166	— 81,958	125,347	126,700	86,209
1940–41 ..	3,621,915	3,780,615	—158,700	—33,353	132,290	90,282
1941–42 ..	4,167,185	3,822,654	+344,531	311,178	137,522	—
1942–43 ..	4,372,304	4,044,731	+327,573	638,751	144,164	—
1943–44 ..	5,655,432	5,948,348	—293,916	344,835	149,487	—
1944–45 ..	8,008,586	7,408,156	+600,430	946,015	155,009	—
1945–46 ..	7,747,680	7,613,612	+134,068	1,084,363	260,071	100,000
1946–47 ..	8,390,657	7,851,030	+539,627	1,628,586	268,791	104,268
1947–48 ..	9,300,497	8,410,280	+890,217	2,507,500	277,922	102,349
1948–49 ..	9,712,942	10,130,204	—417,262	2,094,520	286,841	107,955
1949–50 ..	10,002,635	9,890,329	+112,306	2,187,794	296,163	103,823
1950–51 ..	10,938,887	10,342,339	+596,548	2,744,762	305,341	107,032
1951–52 (rev. est.)	12,922,680	13,658,066	—735,386	2,009,376	n.a.	n.a.

Digitized by Google

The general pattern of revenue in recent years has been as follows :—

SOURCES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE OF JAMAICA

	1949–50 (actual)	*Proportion of Total Revenue*	*1950–51 Revised estimate*	*Proportion of Total Revenue*	*1951–52 estimate*	*Proportion of Total Revenue*
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Customs and Excise	5,364,841	53·6	6,385,560	58·4	6,539,060	56·6
Licenses, fees and other Internal Revenue	425,701	4·3	448,634	4·1	399,913	3·4
Reimbursements	508,335	5·1	539,278	4·9	548,043	4·7
Post Office	438,903	4·4	344,650	3·1	363,650	3·1
Departmental Revenue ..	128,556	1·3	150,846	1·4	210,963	1·8
Direct taxation	2,246,456	22·4	2,315,330	21·1	2,322,000	20·1
Rents and interest	62,123	0·6	73,228	0·7	76,411	0·6
Miscellaneous	139,832	1·4	72,132	0·7	85,214	0·7
Total Ordinary Revenue ..	9,308,547	93·1	10,329,658	94·4	10,604,396	92·0
Land Sales	2,262	—	1,167	—	1,160	—
Loan Repayments	14,287	0·1	8,289	0·1	14,651	0·1
C.D. and W. Schemes ..	677,539	6·8	603,031	5·5	911,811	7·9
Total Revenue	10,002,635	100	10,942,145	100	11,531,928	100

A more detailed breakdown of receipts from customs and excise and from direct taxation is shown below :—

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE—CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, AND DIRECT TAXATION

	1949–50 (actual)	*Proportion of Total Revenue*	*1950–51 Revised Estimate*	*Proportion of Total Revenue*	*1951–52 (estimate)*	*Proportion of Total Revenue*
Customs and Excise	£	%	£	%	£	%
Import Duties ..	3,309,554	33·1	4,000,000	36·6	4,075,000	35·3
Export Duties ..	34	—	60	—	—	—
Tonnage Tax	95,278	0·9	107,000	1·0	107,000	0·9
Excise rum ..	700,684	7·0	755,000	6·9	755,000	6·6
Excise tobacco ..	948,625	9·5	1,038,000	9·5	1,038,000	9·0
Other Excise ..	310,216	3·1	485,500	4·4	564,000	4·9
Total Excise	1,959,525	19·6	2,278,500	20·8	2,357,000	20·5
Total	5,364,841	53·6	6,385,560	58·4	6,539,060	56·7
Direct Taxation						
Income Tax	2,001,832	20·0	2,097,330	19·0	2,100,000	18·2
Land and Property Tax	74,775	0·8	75,000	0·7	75,000	0·6
Death, Estate Duties ..	131,920	1·3	124,670	1·2	127,000	1·1
Excess Profits Tax ..	31,929	0·3	18,000	0·2	20,000	0·2
Total	2,240,456	22·4	2,315,000	21·1	2,322,000	20·1

The pattern of expenditure in recent years has been :—

ANALYSIS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

Head	1949–50 *(actual)*	*Proportion of total ordinary expenditure*	1950–1 *Revised Estimate*	*Proportion of total ordinary expenditure*	1951–2 *(estimate)*	*Proportion of total ordinary expenditure*
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Public Debt	668,294	7·0	735,375	7·1	892,142	7·6
Pensions	267,222	2·8	278,798	2·7	325,256	2·8
Administration	1,163,468	12·1	1,269,828	12·2	1,333,078	11·3
Economic Development ..	2,529,248	26·4	2,683,456	25·8	3,678,954	31·2
Social Services	2,085,806	21·7	2,541,367	24·4	3,189,418	27·0
Law and Order	905,504	9·5	1,084,215	10·4	1,219,436	10·3
Miscellaneous	1,969,991	20·5	1,815,027	17·4	1,156,180	9·8
Total Ordinary Expenditure	9,605,533	100·0	10,408,066	100·0	11,744,464	100·0
Price Stabilisation	283,013	—	23,200	—	7,000	—
Loans and Long Term Advances	1,783	—	4,133	—	9,521	—
Total Expenditure ..	9,890,329	—	10,435,399	—	11,810,985	—

Digitized by Google

Rates of *income tax* are :—

Chargeable income	*Rate*
For every £ of first £100 ..	7d.
„ „ „ „ 2nd £100 ..	1s. 2d.
„ „ „ „ 3rd £100 ..	1s. 9d.
„ „ „ „ 4th £100 ..	2s. 4d.
„ „ „ „ 5th £100 ..	2s. 11d.
„ „ „ „ 6th £100 ..	3s. 6d.
„ „ „ „ 7th £100 ..	4s. 1d.
„ „ „ „ 8th £100 ..	4s. 8d.
„ „ „ „ next £150 ..	7s. 6d.

Statutory deductions are : £200 on incomes not over £700 or £150 where income exceeds £700 ; £80 for wife, £40 for first child and £20 for each additional child ; life insurance 1/6th of total income or £150 whichever is the less.

The rate of income tax chargeable on *companies* is 7s. 6d. for every pound of chargeable income. Income tax holidays have recently been given to firms declared pioneer industries.

Surtax is levied on all personal incomes over £2,000, at rates ranging from 1s. 3d. in the £ for the first £1,000 in excess to 7s. 6d. on incomes over £5,000 in excess (of £2,000).

There is also a *legacy* tax on all legacies other than to husband or wife at rates varying from one to ten per cent., according to kinship, and *estate duty* ranging from £2 2s. per cent. on estates between £500 and £1,000 to 40 per cent. on estates over £500,000.

Jamaica's allocation from United Kingdom funds under the 1945 C.D.W. Act is £6,250,000. Drawings up to the 31st March, 1951 were £2,927,571.

Following the 1951 hurricane H.M. Government made a grant of £250,000 to Jamaica for immediate relief, and agreed to make available up to £4·6 m. towards the cost of reconstructing the island's economy (up to £3·1 m. in the form of grant and up to £1·5 m. as an interest free loan).

The General Reserve Fund maintained to provide for budgetary equilibrium (see page 141) was £305,341 at the close of 1950–51, and the Insurance Fund to provide a reserve against calamities was £107,032.

Of the total public debt of £13·8 m. on 1st April, 1950, £9·6 m. represented the liability of the Central Government, £3·9 m. that of local government bodies and £0·2m. that of H.M. Government.

Since 1945–6 short term funds have been raised by issues of Treasury Bills at a discount of 2 per cent., subsequently reduced in 1948 to 1½ per cent.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING

Year	*Amount at beginning of year*				*Borrowing during the year*							
	Total Public Debt	*Bond and Stock-holder*	*Imperial Treasury*	*Other*	*Public Loans*	*Imperial Treasury*	*Treasury Bills (net)*	*Other*	*Re-deemed during year*	*Total Public Debt at end of year**	*Sinking Funds*	*Accumu-lated Annual Debt Charges*
	£000s				£000s				£000s			
1935–36	3,836	3,836	—	—	150	—	—	—	205	3,781	562	226
1936–37	3,781	3,781	—	—	350	—	—	—	156	3,974	512	232
1937–38	3,974	3,974	—	—	630	—	—	—	—	4,604	605	233
1938–39	4,604	4,604	—	—	2,320	—	—	—	570	6,355	642	254
1939–40	6,355	6,355	—	—	347	—	—	—	206	6,495	732	346
1940–41	6,495	6,495	—	—	258	—	—	—	20	6,734	877	383
1941–42	6,734	6,734	—	—	858	—	—	—	1,058	6,533	716	418
1942–43	6,533	6,533	—	—	438	—	—	—	282	6,689	820	418
1943–44	6,689	6,689	—	—	881	203	—	—	129	7,644	984	425
1944–45	7,644	7,441	203	—	570	542	—	—	110	8,646	1,202	488
1945–46	8,646	7,901	745	—	103	143	875	—	152	8,740	1,420	496
1946–47	8,740	7,853	888	—	950	456	1,000	—	20	10,126	1,728	492
1947–48	10,126	8,783	1,343	—	338	130	1,000	—	75	10,519	2,016	580
1948–49	10,519	9,045	1,474	70	799	1	934	180	127	11,192	2,359	697
1949–50	11,192	9,718	1,474	—	3,252	—	650	—	582	13,862	2,305	667
1950–51	13,862	12,543	1,318	—	100	—	740	—	275	13,686	2,637	735 (est.)

* Not including Treasury Bills.

The assets and liabilities of Jamaica as at 31st March, 1950, were :—

Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March, 1950

Liabilities	£ s. d.	*Assets*	£ s. d.
Loans	470,587 15 0	Loans and Advances ..	1,671,781 7 10¾
Deposits	371,172 12 3	Unallocated Stores	545,789 13 9
Special Funds Deposits ..	6,951,970 12 6	Treasury Bills Advances ..	564,500 0 0
Reserve and Insurance	399,987 0 9	Investments	4,742,934 10 7
Provident Fund	88,311 11 10	Provident Fund Investments	88,317 0 0
Treasury Bills	650,000 0 0	Reserve and Insurance Funds Investments	383,559 5 8
Unexpended Loan	2,531,027 16 2	Drafts	423 8 8
Gen. Rev. Balance ..	2,187,794 16 6	Joint Colonial Fund ..	4,564,656 18 4
		Remittances	69,068 2 5
		Imports	21,806 6 10
		Cash Balances	998,015 10 10¼
	£13,650,852 5 0		£13,650,852 5 0

Digitized by Google

Local Authorities

The twelve Parochial Boards are responsible for the administration of public health and sanitation, local water supplies, roads, markets, pounds, cemeteries, street lighting, the distribution of poor relief and special unemployment relief works. A large proportion of their revenue is derived from grants from the Government. During the financial year 1950–1 a new system was introduced by which the central government makes systematic grants to Parochial Boards and the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in place of deficit grants. The former now receive a grant equal to 25 per cent. of their revenue collections in the previous year, as well as a fixed grant, and the Corporation a grant-in-aid equal to 20 per cent. of its revenue collection. The new system enables local authorities to plan ahead and to reap the benefits of sound budgetary practice. The Collector General's Department collects taxes for and on behalf of the Parochial Boards.

Annual revenue and expenditure of the Parochial Boards have been :—

	1948–9	1949–50
	£	£
Revenue	862,053	676,004
Expenditure	862,441	765,962

The main sources of revenue and the pattern of expenditure were as follows :—

It will be seen that a fairly large proportion of revenue is derived from government grants of various sorts. Of the revenue from local taxation approximately three-quarters comes from land taxes. One of the largest items of expenditure is on poor relief, and substantial sums have been spent on special works largely for the relief of unemployment. Loans to Parochial Boards stood at £557,500 at 31st March, 1948, and during 1948–9, £32,528 was borrowed. Sinking funds amounted to £136,639 at 31st March, 1948.

The revenue and expenditure of Kingston-St. Andrew Corporation (not included in the above) are shown below :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION

	1948–49	1949–50	1950–1 (*revised estimates*)
	£	£	£
Revenue ..	470,877	585,163	659,726
Expenditure ..	495,606	536,447	601,599

REVENUE OF PAROCHIAL BOARDS

	1948–49		1949–50	
	£	%	£	%
Land taxes	285,064	33·1	310,458	45·9
Utility Rates	42,180	4·9	51,648	7·6
Trade Licences and Fees ..	90,539	10·5	45,098	6·7
Vehicular Taxes			49,909	7·4
Other	—	—	6,500	0·9
Total Tax	417,783	48·5	463,613	68·5
Government Grants	165,115	19·1	121,625	18·0
Special Works	274,223	31·8	85,000	12·6
Other	4,932	0·6	5,766	0·9
Total Non Tax	444,270	51·5	212,391	31·5
Total Revenue	862,053	100·0	676,004	100·0

EXPENDITURE OF PAROCHIAL BOARDS

Expenditure	1948–49		1949–50	
	£	%	£	%
Fixed charges	60,520	2·5	69,919	9·1
Public Health and Sanitation	92,915	10·7	118,376	15·5
Poor Relief	140,796	17·5	163,161	21·3
Roads and Works	121,784	14·0	138,127	18·0
Administration	42,398	5·0	60,541	7·9
Other Water, Markets, Street Lighting, Pounds, etc. ..	126,625	18·1	130,200	17·0
Capital and Special Works ..	277,403	32·2	85,638	11·2
	862,441	100·0	765,962	100·0

SOURCES OF REVENUE—KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION

	1948–49		1949–50		1950–51 (*revised estimates*)	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Property Tax	281,135	59·8	304,126	52·0	335,114	50·8
Rates	39,912	8·4	42,772	7·3	45,658	6·9
Licences	60,432	12·8	77,307	13·2	83,162	12·6
Government Grants	59,193	12·6	124,346	21·2	139,787	21·2
Rents	3,119	0·7	2,966	0·5	2,672	0·4
Miscellaneous	27,086	5·7	33,646	5·8	53,333	8·1
Total	470,877	100·0	585,136	100·0	659,726	100·0

Digitized by Google

PATTERN OF EXPENDITURE—KINGSTON-ST. ANDREW CORPORATION

	1948–49		1949–50		1950–51 (revised estimates)	
	£	%	£	%	£	%
Administration	172,702	35·0	207,891	38·8	224,441	37·3
Public Debt Charges	71,098	14·3	70,624	13·2	84,766	14·1
Roads	49,742	10·0	48,278	9·0	63,620	10·6
Poor Relief	89,034	18·0	110,082	20·5	116,937	19·4
Public Health	12,861	2·6	12,448	2·3	13,131	2·2
Transport and Cleaning	49,648	10·0	45,774	8·5	54,095	9·0
Street Lighting	13,000	2·6	13,159	2·5	13,980	2·3
Special Works	10,000	2·0	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	27,521	5·5	28,141	5·2	30,929	5·1
	495,606	100·0	536,447	100·0	601,899	100·0

Water and sewerage are the function of a special Water Commission independent of the Corporation. The expenditure shown above excludes expenditure on unemployment relief works, mainly financed in equal proportions by Government grant and by Government loans re-lent to the Corporation. Between 1946 and 1949 the amount approved for these works was £885,505. Also excluded from the above table are the revenue and expenditure of the Trust Department of the Corporation which deals with gas, market and slaughtering services.

The revenue and expenditure of the Water Commission was as follows :—

REVENUE OF WATER COMMISSION

	1948–49		1949–50	
	£	%	£	%
Rates	167,542	86·0	220,145	88·8
Statutory Revenue	23,565	12·0	25,114	11·0
Other	2,530	2·0	2,566	0·2
	197,637	100·0	247,825	100·0

EXPENDITURE OF WATER COMMISSION

	1948–49		1949–50	
	£	%	£	%
Administration	62,058	32·4	76,115	32·5
Debt Charges	53,908	28·1	75,220	32·2
General Maintenance	57,208	30·0	62,471	26·7
Pumped Supplies	8,200	4·0	10,000	4·2
Other	10,102	5·5	10,095	4·4
	191,476	100·0	233,901	100·0

Currency and Banking

The currency used consists of Jamaican Government Currency notes of 5s., 10s., £1 and £5, Commercial Bank currency notes (the total circulation of which is limited to approximately £1 m.), Jamaican coins of 1d., ½d., and ¼d., and British coins. These notes and coins are also in use in the Jamaican dependencies (the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands).

There are four commercial banks in Jamaica, viz., the Bank of Nova Scotia, Barclays (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank of Canada. There is a Government Savings Bank with 179 branches at Post Offices throughout the Island. Interest has been at two per cent. since 1939 on deposits to a maximum of £500.

Statistics of deposits, loans and advances by banks in Jamaica and of total currency circulation (exclusive of coin) for a series of years are shown below. Jamaican coins in circulation are estimated at around £44·5 m. in 1945 and £52·4 m. in 1949 (as at 31st March).

	Savings Deposits			*Effective Circulation*			
	Government Savings Banks Deposits	*Commercial Banks Deposits**	*Total Savings Deposits*	*Note Circulation*	*Demand Deposits*	*Effective Circulation*	*Loans and Advances*
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
1939 March	892	N.A.	—	—	—	—	—
1943 ,,	1,333	N.A.	—	1,632	N.A.	—	—
1944 ,,	1,853	5,498	7,351	2,103	5,485	7,588	3,297
1945 ,,	2,378	5,879	8,257	2,595	6,769	9,364	3,425
1946 ,,	3,011	6,678	9,689	3,039	7,597	10,636	3,434
1947 ,,	2,914	6,248	9,162	2,972	6,747	9,719	5,048
1948 March	2,320†	6,091	8,411	2,927	8,595	11,522	8,906
June	—	5,987	—	2,777	8,304	11,081	7,904
September	—	5,957	—	2,673	7,964	10,637	7,856
December	—	5,774	—	2,837	7,703	10,540	8,674
1949 March	2,275	5,755	8,030	2,904	7,860	10,764	9,407
June	—	5,640	—	2,800	7,886	10,686	9,587
September	—	5,848	—	2,717	7,152	9,869	9,425
December	—	5,658	—	2,981	7,748	10,729	9,778
1950 March	2,276	5,881	8,157	3,183	8,109	11,292	10,296
June	—	6,020	—	3,162	8,500	11,662	9,762
1951 March	2,368	6,033	8,401	3,420	10,015	13,435	10,790

* Including Time Deposits.
† Excluding agricultural workers' accounts.

Apart from the usual banking channels, credit and loan facilities are provided by Agricultural Loan Societies or the People's Co-operative Banks.

The Agricultural Loan Societies, of which there were 114 in 1950, are supervised by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, The Board issues loans to them, from funds placed at its disposal by the Legislature, for general agricultural or pastoral activities, agricultural rehabilitation, resettlement, rehabilitation of farm buildings and farmers' housing. Advances are made to registered societies from the Agricultural Credit Revolving Fund

Digitized by Google

and other sums placed at the disposal of the Board. Funds donated by the U.K. Government for assistance after the hurricane of 1944 were administered by the Board. The Board may also make loans direct to individuals in special cases. Details of advances made by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board are shown below :—

AGRICULTURAL LOAN SOCIETIES BOARD

STATEMENT SHOWING TOTAL LOANS ISSUED AND BALANCES DUE THE BOARD BY REGISTERED SOCIETIES AT 31ST MARCH, 1951

	Advances and Loans Issued		*Balances Outstanding*	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Law 28 of 1944				
General Purposes	557,329 5 8		200,040 19 9	
Dairy Cattle	35,704 0 0		13,197 15 2	
Bee-Farmers	650 0 0		386 3 0	
Banana Extension	19,873 0 0		5,843 16 5	
		613,556 5 8		219,468 14 4
Office Equipment (including Iron Safe)	7,628 6 4		2,569 2 0	
Office Accommodation	12,055 0 0		8,090 15 2	
		19,683 6 4		10,659 17 2
Fireproof Vaults		2,185 0 0		1,914 0 0
Agricultural Rehabilitation				
Hurricane Loans, 1935	23,100 0 0		554 5 1	
Hurricane Loans, 1939	67,004 0 0		8,714 5 6	
Hurricane Loans, 1943	8,050 0 0		88 19 10	
Hurricane Loans, Law 36 of 1912	48,821 0 0		—	
Hurricane Loans, Law 37 of 1916	24,768 12 4		—	
Hurricane Loans, Law 24 of 1917	6,900 0 0		—	
Fishermen Loans	2,816 16 8		1,010 14 5	
		181,460 9 0		10,368 4 10
Housing Loans		8,305 0 0		3,727 13 1
Farmers' Housing Loans		46,685 0 0		34,664 2 0
Rice Loans		9,022 0 0		3,824 8 6
Special Food Loans		10,420 0 0		5,148 13 2
Advances for Food Production Loans	169,073 15 0		39,942 16 4	
Advances for Irish Potato Loans	34,401 4 0		2,581 9 0	
		203,474 19 0		42,524 5 4
Cane Loans		21,801 10 6		13,013 4 11
Citrus Loans		1,396 13 4		1,046 13 0
1944 *Rehabilitation*				
Bananas	81,028 0 0		9,315 9 0	
Coconuts	22,052 0 0		9,264 17 11	
Orchard Crop	6,483 0 0		2,501 5 5	
Food Crop	35,750 0 0		9,863 8 10	
Mixed Cultivation	32,872 0 0		11,904 9 0	
Building	652,515 0 0		405,052 3 4	
Fishermen	167 0 0		—	
		830,867 0 0		447,901 13 6
		£1,948,857 3 10		£794,261 10 2

The total membership of Agricultural Loan Societies at 31st December, 1950, was 74,286, their issued share capital £218,929, and paid-up capital £139,027.

Private Investment

The numbers of new companies registered and changes in capital of existing companies are shown below. It is not known what proportion of these companies are financed mainly from local sources and what proportion from external sources.

No estimates have been made of the total external commercial capital invested in Jamaica.

The Government of Jamaica has in recent years sought to encourage private investment in the territory by the giving of tax reliefs and other incentives under the *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* (see Sections on Economic Legislation and Manufactures).

NEW COMPANIES REGISTERED AND CHANGES IN REGISTERED CAPITAL

Period	*Net Total New Capital*	*New Companies Registered*		*Changes in Capital of Existing Companies*		*Companies Dissolved*	
		No.	*Capital*	*Increases*	*Decreases*	*No.*	*Capital*
	£		£	£	£		£
1939	108,771	39	157,931	189,040	—	14	238,200
1940	398,624	35	462,060	346,304	—	29	409,740
1941	11,080	26	117,380	19,400	—	27	125,700
1942	219,630	26	236,416	58,564	—	16	85,350
1943	211,074	28	258,350	202,892	—	17	40,168
1944	551,493	29	289,100	438,480	—	7	176,087
1945	1,237,553	48	827,100	449,573	—	16	39,120
1946	462,875	57	372,100	161,000	24,000	14	46,225
1947	914,066	69	758,867	323,949	—	19	168,750
1948	2,228,194	95	1,271,205	1,151,239	—	22	194,250
1949	2,441,784	76	1,448,500	1,061,099	—	22	67,815
1950	1,944,100	67	1,229,900	914,400	—	20	200,200

Digitized by Google

National Income

Estimates of national income made by the Central Bureau of Statistics for the years 1946 to 1949 and earlier estimates made by other investigators are shown below :—

ESTIMATED NATIONAL AND PER CAPITA INCOME

Year	*Mean Population* 000	*National income* £000	*Per Capita income* £
1929	975	19,187	19·7
1930	997	19,053	19·1
1931	1,025	18,339	17·9
1932	1,047	17,177	16·4
1933	1,067	16,391	15·4
1934	1,081	16,553	15·3
1935	1,096	17,147	15·7
1936	1,111	17,474	15·7
1937	1,123	19,420	17·3
1938	1,142	20,319	17·8
1942	1,227	33,300	27·1
1943	1,248	40,500	32·5
1946	1,298	63,800	49·2
1947	1,327	70,000	52·7
1948	1,350	80,000	59·3
1949	1,374	85,000	61·9

Estimated : (*a*) For the period 1929–38 by Miss Phyllis Deane. (*The Measurement of Colonial National incomes*—Cambridge University Press).
(*b*) For 1942 by Frederick Benham (*Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Bulletin 5*).
(*c*) For 1943, 1946 and subsequent years by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The high level of national income in recent years has been mainly due to inflated prices, and does not reflect large increases in real national income. It has been estimated that when national income is computed at current prices the 1947 per capita income was approximately £53 per head, which in terms of 1938 prices would be equivalent to only £27 per head. The increase is not due to any substantial increase in population but to increases in retail prices. There are no very recent figures showing the breakdown of national income by types of income, e.g. wages, salaries, profits, etc., or of gross output by industry. Estimates available for 1943 and 1946, however, are shown below :—

ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF NATIONAL INCOME 1943 AND 1946

Head	*Value*—£000	
	1943	1946
1. Primary Production ..	12,700	15,200
2. Secondary Production..	9,700	16,600
3. Transportation and Distribution	11,700	18,700
4. Government Services	4,200	6,300
5. Miscellaneous Services	6,200	9,400
6. Housing	4,000	7,900
7. Gross value of production	48,500	74,100
8. Less value of deductions	9,000	12,600
9. Net value of production	39,500	61,500
10. Plus net income received from abroad	1,000	2,300
11. Value of net national output	40,500	63,800

The estimates for particular industries above are estimates of the value of *gross* output. The net output for these industries might bear a rather different relationship from that suggested by this table since the cost of raw materials (which must be deducted to obtain net output) will represent a much greater proportion of gross output in some industries than in others (e.g., in secondary production compared with primary production). A breakdown of the composition and disposal of national income in 1943 is shown below :—

Consumption and Disposal of National Income 1943

Head of Expenditure	*Value* £000
Personal Consumption	32,625
Government Expenditure	4,522
Investment and Savings	2,868
Remittances Abroad	485
Total Net National Consumption at Factor Cost	40,500

Cost of Living

The Jamaica Cost of Living Index is based on a family budget survey held in the latter part of 1939. This enquiry, which was restricted to households in Kingston having a wage of not more than 40s. a week, formed the basis for the weighting system employed. A further enquiry held in 1942 suggested that the weights appropriate to the whole island did not differ greatly from those based on the Kingston survey.

The pattern of consumption, however, changed during the war owing to a number of factors, including the shortage of imported goods. After the war this pattern reverted to something nearer the pre-war model, but since then, as a result of devaluation and the substitution of sterling for dollar imports, is thought to have again changed considerably. For this reason the Commission on the Public Service in Jamaica recommended in 1949 that a new family budget survey be undertaken to form the basis of a new Retail Prices Index. This survey, however, had not been commenced by 1951.

As well as this general index there is also a special sugar workers' index, which came into existence as a result of an agreement between the Sugar Manufacturers' Association and the Bustamente Trade Union. This index, which is used as the basis for calculating cost of living allowances in the industry, was based on a family budget survey made in 1941.

In the case of both indices price changes are calculated from information collected at regular intervals from markets, provision stores, merchants, tenants, etc., in the Greater Kingston area in the case of the general index, and in country districts in the case of the sugar workers' index.

The weights used in each of the indices are as follows :—

	General Index	*Sugar Workers' Index*
Food	10	48
Clothing	2	5
Rent	3½	11
Fuel and Cleaning	1½	12
All Other	2	20

Movements in the indices for a series of years are shown below :—

GENERAL COST OF LIVING INDEX

	Food Weight (10)	*Rent Weight* (3½)	*Clothing Weight* (2)	*Fuel and Cleaning Weight* (1½)	*All Other Weight* (2)	*All Items Weight* (19)
August, 1939 (Base)	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
December, 1939	119·7	102·0	127·9	114·7	103·7	115·2
December, 1940	127·6	103·8	165·5	121·2	114·5	125·2
December, 1941	140·8	108·0	251·5	143·2	123·0	144·7
December, 1942	144·2	112·0	298·6	162·1	154·1	157·0
December, 1943	141·5	117·0	298·5	174·8	157·8	157·8
December, 1944	139·9	125·0	282·5	184·6	177·9	159·7
December, 1945	148·8	128·0	242·4	182·1	166·1	159·3
December, 1946	162·2	136·9	301·6	182·1	173·1	174·9
December, 1947	181·8	142·4	448·3	194·9	206·9	206·3
December, 1948	242·1	144·7	551·0	202·5	225·3	251·8
December, 1949	245·7	151·4	463·1	243·2	235·5	250·0
December, 1950	263·1	156·6	489·8	237·3	237·5	262·6
June, 1951	291·2	158·3	595·9	277·5	237·9	292·1

Digitized by Google

Sugar Workers' Cost of Living Index
All items

June, 1941	..	100
June, 1942	..	119·4
1943	..	131·0
1944	..	138·5
1945	..	157·1
1946	..	156·3
1947	..	171·9
1948	..	198·8
1949	..	199·9
1950	..	205·8
1951	..	236·4

Subsidisation of certain basic foodstuffs was in force during the war and continued into the post-war years. In 1948–49 some £400,000 was spent on the subsidisation of foodstuffs (mostly on salt fish and condensed milk) but this amount was considerably reduced in subsequent years, and subsidisation was discontinued early in 1950.

The steep rise in the cost of living index in 1950 and 1951 was due to the effects of devaluation and the rise in world prices following the outbreak of the Korean war.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The total imports and exports of the Colony since 1938 are shown below :—

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS 1938–49

Year	Imports		Exports			
			Total*			
	Value (C.I.F.)	Index	Value (F.O.B.)	Index	Domestic	Re-exports
	£'000		£'000		£'000	£'000
1938	6,485	100	5,033	100	4,926	107
1939	6,507	100	4,765	95	4,646	119
1940	6,154	95	3,213	64	3,054	159
1941	6,517	100	3,967	79	3,801	166
1942	5,515	85	4,051	80	3,860	192
1943	7,311	113	4,237	84	4,040	197
1944	8,973	138	4,479	89	4,342	137
1945	9,596	148	4,959	99	4,786	173
1946	12,452	192	8,754	174	8,575	179
1947	18,943	292	10,171	202	9,939	232
1948	19,681	303	11,387	226	11,150	237
1949	19,225	296	12,137	241	11,844	294
1950	20,813	321	16,424	326	15,994	430

* Excluding ships' stores.

It will be seen that Jamaica has had an adverse balance of trade each year, but as the estimate given below of the balance of payments for 1948 shows, the gap is somewhat reduced when allowance is made for invisibles. The following extract from the *External Trade of Jamaica*, 1948, gives an account of the position.

"10. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Table 11 below sets out the international financial position of the island at the close of the year 1948. The revenue side is composed mainly of the net income generated or paid into the country by overseas purchasers for commodities and services sold to them ; income transmitted to the country by nationals resident abroad and the profits arising from investments abroad by residents. The expenditure side of the picture represents the net current expenditure by residents of the country for commodities and services purchased abroad and the extent of investment by overseas agencies in the country.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—STATEMENT, 1948

Net Income generated by Receipts from abroad

Receipts	Sterling Areas £000	Non-Sterling Areas £000	Total £000
1. Value of home produced exports	8,724	2,426	11,150
2. Value of the sale and export of services to foreign agencies, etc.	1,079	696	1,775
3. Remittances of cash and goods from local labour resident abroad	153	830	983
4. Receipts from missions and overseas religious organisations	56	78	134
5. Income from property held abroad	120	100	220
6. Receipts from tourists and other visitors	500	1,750	2,250
7. Net government current receipts from abroad	720	—	720
8. Net other miscellaneous receipts	19	—	19
9. Total Income from Abroad	11,371	5,880	17,251

Net Current Expenditure and Investment abroad

Payments	Sterling Areas £000	Non-Sterling Areas £000	Total £000
10. Value of retained imports	9,446	9,998	19,444
11. Expenditure abroad by residents	55	517	572
12. Government expenditure abroad	145	2	147
13. Remittances to foreign shareholders and beneficiaries	100	115	215
14. Miscellaneous remittances abroad	61	389	450
	9,807	11,021	20,828
15. Investments abroad 510			
16. Disinvestments abroad (Jamaica borrowing) 3,067			
17. Net foreign investments 3,577	+1,564	−5,141	−3,577
18. Total expenditure abroad	11,371	5,880	17,251 "

Digitized by Google

The principal imports by main sources for 1938, 1948 and 1949 are shown below :—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS INTO JAMAICA AND COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

		1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value*	*Main Countries of Origin by Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Main Countries of Origin by Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Main Countries of Origin by Value*
			£	£000		£	£000		£	£000
Dried and Salted Fish ..	lb.	18,238,721	212,180	Newfoundland (184·2), Canada (25·9)	11,329,037	515,583	Newfoundland (496·9), Canada (14·8)	11,593,381	591,358	Newfoundland (502·0), Canada (63·8).
Pickled Mackerels	lb.	7,060,050	50,848	Canada (50·3)	6,147,650	171,790	Canada (170·4), Newfoundland (1·2)	6,389,550	197,343	Canada (187·4), Newfoundland (9·7).
Corn	lb.	142,562	641	U.S. (0·5)	14,562,950	173,670	San Domingo (110·7), U.S. (48·6)	—	—	—
Rice	lb.	42,110,876	195,198	Burma (185·3), British Guiana (4·3)	17,472,013	500,702	U.S. (274·3), Brazil (226·4) ..	18,013,971	406,865	U.S. (386·7), Columbia (20·2).
Wheaten Flour Meal ..	bags of 196 lb.	413,631	451,957	Canada (262·7), Austrualia (111·0)	502,373	1,791,669	Canada (1,211·1), U.S. (580·3)	570,204	1,690,825	Canada (1,052·9), U.S. (637·5).
Cornmeal	bags of 196 lb.	71,025	59,664	Canada (38·2), U.S. (19·0) ..	22,855	67,595	U.S. (67·5)	306	1,120	Canada (1·1).
Condensed Milk	lb.	9,899,759	143,891	Holland (87·1), Canada (33·1)	2,972,052	130,388	Canada (126·5)	934,038	35,229	Canada (35·1).
Tobacco Leaf (U.K. manu-actured	lb.	771,568	48,465	U.S. (22·0), S. Rhodesia (21·1)	1,333,469	298,314	Canada (179·0), Cuba (96·8) ..	927,680	190,476	Canada (122·1), Cuba (68·4).
Apparel (except footwear) ..	—	—	172,877	U.K. (70·2), Hongkong (45·9), Canada (26·6)	—	826,627	U.K. (206·4), Canada (37·3), Hong Kong (27·9)	—	241,533	U.K. (198·5), Canada (14·5), Hong Kong (14·2).
Boots, shoes, slippers ..	doz. prs.	133,793	201,942	U.K. (105·5), Canada (48·9), Hong Kong (29·7)	64,349	434,395	U.K. (364·9), Canada (29·4), Hong Kong (17·8)	56,234	307,457	U.K. (262·2), Hong Kong (33·7), Canada (8·7).
Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	25,846,680	387,790	U.K. (218·9), U.S. (146·1) ..	16,334,037	1,305,815	U.K. (617·0), Hong Kong (288·7), U.S. (168·6)	22,697,355	1,524,176	U.K. (849·8), Japan (615·6), Hong Kong (41·1).
Other Cotton Manufactures	—	—	64,572	U.K. (40·6), Japan (10·7), U.S. (6·2)	—	188,656	U.K. (93·5), U.S. (82·3) ..	—	233,093	U.K. (137·6), U.S. (48·9), Brazil (23·3).
Art Silk Piece Goods ..	yds.	4,101,590	111,722	U.K. (31·3), Italy (16·1), U.S. (14·0)	2,847,587	445,699	U.K. (386·9), U.S. (50·2) ..	5,230,794	641,900	U.K. (551·3), Italy (75·1), France (11·6).
Wool Piece Goods and Manufactures	—	—	59,927	U.K. (51·0), Japan (7·3) ..	—	260,320	U.K. (248·3), Italy (9·5) ..	—	261,186	U.K. (254·5), Italy (5·1)
Laundry Soap	lb.	4,552,329	55,291	U.K. (54·2)	161,541	8,395	U.K. (8·3)	94,016	4,847	U.K. (4·8).
Paper and Paper Manu-factures	—	—	131,324	U.S. (33·4), Canada (32·5), U.K. (31·0)	—	612,441	Canada (303·0), U.K. (180·5), U.S. (59·6)	—	631,887	U.K. (272·2), Canada (162·3), U.S. (29·2).
Motor Cars	No.	1,012	158,631	Canada (81·0), U.S.)38·4), U.K. (31·3)	1,639	535,585	U.K. (450·4), Canada (61·1), U.S. (23·7)	1,245	429,890	U.K. (416·1), U.S. (9·8).
Trucks and Buses	No.	424	78,721	Canada (42·6), U.K. (17·3), U.S. (16·6)	385	195,422	U.K. (147·1), Canada (260·0), U.S. (22·2)	315	181,655	U.K. (171·2), U.S. (9·6).
Cars and Truck Parts ..	—	—	119,494	Canada (67·6), U.S. (25·7) U.K. (24·2)	—	352,073	U.K. (232·2), U.S. (64·6), Canada (54·6)	—	357,824	U.K. (273·5), U.S. (66·9), Canada (15·5).
Agricultural Machinery ..	—	—	28,794	U.S. (17·0), U.K. (8·6) ..	—	196,086	U.S. (142·7), U.K. (46·8) ..	—	249,449	U.S. (181·5), U.K. (62·5).
Sugar Making Machinery ..	—	—	241,091	U.K. (214·2), U.S. (23·1) ..	—	506,654	U.K. (452·1), U.S. (50·3) ..	—	317,176	U.K. (272·6), U.S. (43·3).
Steel Sheets and Bars ..	—	—	36,933	U.K. (21·8), Canada (8·9), U.S. (2·5)	—	186,603	U.K. (110·7), U.S. (33·1), Bel-gium (30·2)	—	178,054	U.K. (131·4), U.S. (24·9), France (15·2).
Nails, Screws, Rivets, Staples	—	—	14,592	Canada (9·5), Germany (1·9) U.S. (1·9)	—	201,723	Holland (57·3), U.K. (51·2), Belgium (44·1)	—	93,133	U.K. (62·3), Holland (19·2).
Galvanised Iron Roofing ..	tons	—	37,843	U.K. (34·0), U.S. (1·4), Ger-many (1·4)	649	38,263	U.K. (27·8), U.S. (7·2) ..	1,598	85,813	U.K. (79·1), Belgium (3·4).
Cement	tons	29,794	88,200	U.K. (69·2), Germany (11·6) ..	48,032	300,469	U.K. (242·1), Denmark (21·8)	46,417	312,351	U.K. (268·5), Denmark (30·9).
Motor Spirit	gallons	8,118,350	145,632	Trinidad (86·0), N.W. Indies (54·2)	8,700,996	265,752	Trinidad (263·9), U.S. (1·3) ..	10,814,632	464,358	Trinidad (461·6), U.S. (1·2).
Fuel Oil (not for bunkering)	tons	259	684	Trinidad (0·5)	91,295	412,856	N.W. Indies (412·8)	89,205	361,805	N.W. Indies (356·6).
Wood (Douglas fir, Pitch pine, White Pine)	ft.	16,063,138	150,187	U.S. (112·6), Canada (28·0) ..	7,481,653	210,089	British Honduras (87·3), Ba-hamas (50·1), Canada (35·7)	8,459,745	263,725	British Honduras (169·9), Bahamas (67·5).
Chemical Fertilisers ..	tons	24,789	58,347	U.K. (32·3), Holland (10·4), U.S. (9·7)	16,890	317,319	U.K. (158·9), Canada (74·5), Chile (52·6)	13,302	287,875	U.K. (169·6), Canada (60·9), Chile (23·9).

U.K. — United Kingdom. U.S. — United States of America. N.W.I. — Netherlands West Indies.

Digitized by Google

The proportions of total imports coming from the main supplying countries were :—

SOURCES OF IMPORTS BY MAIN COUNTRIES

Country	1938		1948		1949	
	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%
United Kingdom ..	2,108·6	32·5	7,762·2	39·4	8,668·9	45·1
United States	1,359·1	21·0	3,826·0	19·4	3,174·5	16·5
Canada	1,014·3	15·6	3,594·9	18·3	2,482·6	12·9
Trinidad	252·9	3·9	343·5	1·8	615·6	3·2
Newfoundland	185·9	2·9	515·0	2·6	539·6	2·8
Burma	185·3	2·9	—	—	—	—
Netherlands West Indies	157·5	2·4	807·6	4·1	835·9	4·3
Hong Kong	88·9	1·4	361·7	1·8	—	—
Other Countries ..	1,132·7	17·4	2,469·9	12·6	2,908·4	15·2
Total	6,485·2	100·0	19,680·8	100·0	19,225·5	100·0

Per capita imports of certain goods for one pre-war year and two recent years were :—

PER CAPITA IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED COMMODITIES

		1938	1948	1949
Dried Salted Codfish ..	lb.	15·98	8·38	8·26
Pickled Mackerel ..	lb.	6·18	4·55	4·60
Rice	lb.	36·89	12·94	12·97
Flour	lb.	71·02	72·93	80·46
Cotton Piece Goods ..	yds.	22·64	12·10	16·34
Artificial Silk Piece Goods	yds.	3·59	2·11	3·77
Boots and Shoes ..	prs.	1·41	0·57	0·49
Motor Spirit	galls.	7·11	6·44	7·79
Timber	feet	14·07	5·54	6·09

The principal exports and direction of trade are shown in the following tables :—

DIRECTION OF EXPORTS BY MAIN COUNTRIES

Country	1938		1948		1949	
	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%
United Kingdom ..	2,913·8	59·2	8,331·3	74·7	7,411·6	62·6
Canada	1,309·2	26·6	1,901·6	17·1	3,136·5	26·5
Germany	206·9	4·2	16·9	0·2	123·0	1·0
United States	180·3	3·7	360·1	3·2	415·0	3·5
Holland	137·7	2·7	35·6	0·3	45·1	0·4
New Zealand	16·4	0·3	100·4	0·9	108·5	0·9
Other Countries ..	161·6	3·3	404·5	3·6	604·5	5·1
Total	4,925·9	100·0	11,150·4	100·0	11,844·2	100·0

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS FROM JAMAICA AND MAIN DESTINATIONS

		1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	*Value* £	*Main Destination by Value* £000	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main Destinations by Value* £000	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main Destinations by Value* £000
Bananas	stems	23,811,337	2,916,956	U.K. (2,409·7), Canada (320·8)	6,095,038	2,321,064	U.K. (2,307·8)	6,563,378	2,270,507	U.K. (2,270·5).
Sugar (raw and refined)	tons	105,034	859,500	Canada (750·3), U.K. (108·8)	150,835	3,582,163	U.K. (2,241·2), Canada (1,301·8)	193,035	4,702,537	Canada (2,722·4), U.K. (1,853·4).
Run (exclusive of ships' stores)	gall.	899,821	247,892	U.K. (126·5), U.S. (47·5), Germany (41·3)	1,869,924	2,043,750	U.K. (1,778·2), Canada (142·2), U.S. (55·8)	1,640,864	1,292,768	U.K. (974·1), Canada (120·9). U.S. (91·4).
Pimento	cwt.	77,471	207,070	Germany (89·8), France (39·1), U.S. (20·3)	43,330	223,577	U.S. (72·0), U.K. (51·9)	76,220	405,414	U.K. (120·4), Canada (16·4).
Coffee (raw)	cwt.	84,486	132,907	Canada (123·2), U.K. (7·6)	25,197	128,911	U.K. (121·4)	21,462	131,115	U.K. (123·3), Barbados (4·8).
Coconuts	No.	33,415,379	84,155	U.S. (48·9), Canada (26·6), U.K. (8·3)	19,500	197	—	21,810	231	—
Grapefruit	No.	13,823,610	38,441	U.K. (34·5), Canada (2·3)	12,169,440	109,891	U.K. (89·8), New Zealand (18·9)	200,614 (cases)	162,066	U.K. (141·7), New Zealand (12·9).
Oranges	boxes	327,082	96,952	U.K. (70·1), New Zealand (12·5), Canada (11·1)	118,527	113,550	New Zealand (61·8), U.K. (47·2)	218,707	204,352	U.K. (132·1), New Zealand (67·0).
Cocoa (raw)	lb.	5,282,484	47,020	Canada (42·9)	4,221,176	351,366	Canada (351·3)	4,118,725	203,879	Canada (203·6).
Ginger	lb.	2,930,573	50,939	U.K. (27·0), U.S. (14·3)	3,124,007	124,606	U.S. (57·8), U.K. (37·0)	2,139,818	130,440	U.S. (68·7), U.K. (46·8).
Cigars	lb.	32,272	17,028	U.K. (5·2), Panama (5·1)	228,432	501,925	U.K. (446·9), Panama (7·8)	201,000	385,897	U.K. (324·3), Australia (19·3), Panama (7·4).
Logwood Extract	cwt.	15,690	50,677	U.K. (46·6)	22,264	116,949	U.K. (113·9)	11,817	63,004	U.K. (38·7), France (15·6).

Digitized by Google

The estimated changes in the relative prices of imports and exports, as calculated by the Central Bureau of Statistics, Jamaica, are as follows :—

IMPORT AND EXPORT PRICE INDICES

Year	*Imports*			*Domestic Exports*		
	Actual Value £000	*Value Computed at 1938 Prices* £000	*Import Price Index* 1938 = 100	*Actual Value* £000	*Value Computed at 1938 Prices* £000	*Export Price Index* 1938 = 100
1938	6,485	6,485	100	4,926	4,926	100
1941	6,517	5,092	128	3,801	2,640	144
1942	5,515	3,133	176	3,859	2,168	178
1943	7,311	3,432	213	4,040	2,208	183
1944	8,973	3,935	228	4,342	2,128	204
1945	9,595	4,208	228	4,786	2,175	220
1946	12,452	4,463	279	8,575	3,298	260
1947	18,943	5,846	324	9,939	3,415	291
1948	19,681	6,037	326	11,150	3,495	319
1949	19,225	6,123	314	11,843	4,084	290
1950	22,379	6,775	330	14,706	4,562	321

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

The Jamaica Ten Year Development Plan, which dates back to April, 1946, originally provided for a total expenditure over the ten years of £21,730,593. The planned allocation under various heads for the period and the actual expenditure from 1946 to the end of March, 1950, are shown below :—

DEVELOPMENT PLAN ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE

Head	*Capital*	*Recurrent*	*Total Plan Expenditure*	*Total expenditure* 1.4.46 to 31.3.50
	£	£	£	£
Agriculture	4,472,867	1,557,180	6,030,047	2,362,233
Communications	1,742,484	—	1,742,484	281,975
Education	2,342,826	959,500	3,302,326	643,650
Industrial and Trade Development	400,000	—	400,000	49,682
Public Health	4,284,476	1,279,047	5,563,523	1,306,311
Social Welfare	303,302	1,470,340	1,773,642	271,231
Miscellaneous	405,681	317,890	723,571	117,961
Debt Charges	—	—	1,495,000	100,894
Unallocated Reserve	—	—	700,000	—
Total	13,951,636	5,583,957	21,730,593	5,133,937

The plan provided for finance from the following sources over the ten year period :—

(1) Schemes	£	
(*a*) C.D. and W.	6,000,000	
(*b*) Loan Funds	5,246,650	
(*c*) General revenue ..	8,288,943	
		£19,535,593
(2) Unallocated reserves :		
(*a*) C.D. and W.	250,000	
(*b*) Loan Funds	200,000	
(*c*) General revenue ..	250,000	
		£700,000
(3) Debt Charges		1,495,000
		£21,730,593

The main emphasis of the plan was on agriculture, public health and education.

Nearly half the expenditure on *agriculture* up to 1950 was on the extension of the agricultural department. The more important schemes covered by the remaining expenditure included land settlement, afforestation, agricultural training centres, irrigation and coffee rehabilitation.

Out of a total expenditure of £1·3 m. on *public health*, approximately £590,000 represented the cost of housing schemes and their administration. Some £400,000 was spent on the improvement of water supplies, and the balance mainly on health demonstration schemes and hospital improvements.

Out of a total expenditure of £643,650 on *education*, some £550,000 was spent on the elementary school building programme and provision of supplementary class rooms.

The original provision from various sources for total expenditure under the plan for the period 1946–50 and the actual amounts spent were as follows :—

	Original Planned Expenditure 1946–50	*Actual Expenditure* 1946–50
	£	£
1. C.D. and W. Funds ..	3,000,000	1,906,661
2. Loan Funds	2,896,000	1,419,676
3. Miscellaneous	64,000	129,358
4. General Revenue	2,283,000	1,678,242
	£8,243,000	£5,133,937

It will be seen from the foregoing tables that expenditure up to 1950 had been considerably less than was originally anticipated, owing partly to difficulties in obtaining raw materials and expert staff, and partly to delays occasioned by the necessity to recost large schemes owing to the rise in world prices.

The plan had to be revised in 1951 because the burden on general revenue as proposed in the original plan was found to be too heavy, and because of the rise in recurrent costs resulting from past development expenditure. The revised plan represents an attempt to provide a flexible allocation of resources to expenditure rather than a rigid compendium of individual schemes.

Digitized by Google

The suggested revision of the plan was as follows (the allocations under the original plan are shown in brackets) :—

REVISION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Allocations under Main Heads	£	£
Agriculture	6,616,480	(6,030,047)
Education..	2,093,099	(3,302,326)
Public Health	6,117,205	(5,563,523)
Communications.. ..	1,611,425	(1,742,484)
Industry and Trade ..	400,000	(400,000)
Social Welfare	1,011,001	(1,773,642)
Miscellaneous	337,731	(723,571)
	£18,186,941	(£19,535,593)
Unallocated	1,176,768	(700,000)
Debt Charges	1,734,275	(1,495,000)
	£21,097,984	(£21,730,593)

Sources of Finance	£	£
C.D. & W.	6,078,116	(6,000,000)
Gen. Rev...	6,283,882	(8,288,943)
Loan	5,824,943	(5,246,650)
	£17,032,891	(£19,535,593)
Unallocated—		
C.D. & W.	—	(250,000)
Loan	732,989	(200,000)
Gen. Rev.	443,779	(250,000)
Debt Charges	1,734,275	(1,495,000)
	£21,097,984	(£21,730,593)

The revised plan includes a substantial reduction in expenditure allocated under particular headings, the largest reductions occurring in education, followed by social welfare and public health. The total expenditure in the revised plan is not very different from the original plan, but to allow of greater flexibility a larger amount has been left unallocated.

Other Development

The development of the basic agricultural industries, although assisted indirectly by government policy, has largely depended on the initiative of the peasant farmers and the estates and of their organisations, and the problem facing Jamaica remains largely that of raising the productivity of peasant farmers. Assistance is being given by the Agricultural Department and by Co-operative and Farmers' Associations in the form of agricultural advice, and in some cases help with the purchase of machinery and fertilisers, but the pressure on the land of an increasing population makes progress difficult. The problem is one of raising output per acre and per person engaged, and this implies the development of secondary industries to take up the surplus under-employed rural manpower. As already described in the sections on Economic Legislation and on Manufactures, various incentives have been offered to encourage industry, and a considerable amount of industrial development has taken place. There are also plans for the development of bauxite mining on a large scale by American and Canadian concerns, assisted by E.C.A. loans, as described on page 135.

Digitized by Google

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Cayman Islands, a Dependency of Jamaica, consist of three islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—which lie in the Caribbean Sea between 19° 15′ and 19° 45′ North Latitude and 79° 44′ and 81° 27′ West Longitude. The Islands are projecting peaks of the Cayman Ridge, a range of submarine mountains continuous with the Sierra Maestra Range of Cuba and running west to the Misteriosa Bank in the direction of British Honduras.

Grand Cayman, situated about 180 miles west-north-west of the westernmost point of Jamaica and about 150 miles south of Cuba, is roughly 22 miles long from east to west with a maximum width of eight miles. Its area is approximately 76 square miles. The most striking topographical feature of this island is the shallow reef-protected harbour of North Sound which is 7½ miles long by six miles wide and which almost cuts the island into two parts. The western half of the island is low-lying, little of it reaching to as much as ten feet above the sea; but the eastern end is rather more elevated and attains a height of 40 to 50 feet at several places on the east coast. Large portions of the interior are penetrated and occupied by lagoons and mangrove swamps.

Little Cayman, which lies approximately 60 miles north-east of Grand Cayman, is ten miles in length and has a maximum width of two miles and an area of about ten square miles. Like Grand Cayman it is low-lying with extensive mangrove swamps.

Cayman Brac, five miles to the eastward of Little Cayman, is about 12 miles in length with an average width of little over a mile and an area of approximately 14 square miles. It is the most elevated and most striking in appearance of the group. The Median plateau rises to about 140 feet in the east, where a sheer cliff drops into the sea, gradually sloping to sea level in the west.

The islands are formed of calcareous rocks which may be classified into Bluff Limestone, an older limestone which forms the central part of each island and is of "honeycomb" structure, the jagged pinnacles of rock being interspersed with fertile earth formed by the weathering of the limestone, and Ironstone formation. This latter is a younger formation of consolidated coral-sand and marl with some limestone which occupies most of the periphery as a low coastal terrace; the soil is thinner and less productive than the bluff limestone. The inner slopes of the sandy coastal beaches are cleared by cutting and burning which adds ash and humus to the soil in which maize, sorghum and sweet potatoes are cultivated.

Phospatic deposits, probably formed by the chemical action of the guano of sea-birds on the limestone, occur in all three islands.

The climate of the Cayman Islands is excellent for the greater part of the year; as they lie in the latitude of the Trade Winds, there are few days of calm and the north-east breezes temper even the hottest days. Only when the wind veers to the south-east or south can the temperature be termed oppressive.

The seasons are fairly well defined. The period May to October is the hot season when the temperature ranges from 70° F. to 85° F., and the prevailing winds are from east-north-east to south. The cool season is from November to April, when the range of temperature is 10° lower and the prevailing winds from east-north-east to north-west.

Records of rainfall for a period of twenty-four years show that the annual average is 61·88 inches, the wet season being from May to October and the dry season from November to April. The greatest annual rainfall recorded is 102·18 inches in 1931, there being 27·10 inches of rain during the month of October of that year.

There are few days in any year in which bright sunshine is not recorded and except when rain is falling, dull and cloudy weather is rarely experienced.

Population

The census of 1943 showed the population to be 6,670, which represents an increase of 11 per cent. over the figure recorded in 1934. The population at the end of 1950 was estimated at 6,580.

The detailed figures (for 1943) are as follows:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Grand Cayman ..	2,322	2,989	5,311
Cayman Brac ..	604	692	1,296
Little Cayman ..	29	34	63
	2,955	3,715	6,670

The following table gives the classification of the population in three age groups, i.e., Children 0–14, Males and Females of working age 15–64, and Males and Females 65 years of age and over at the census date:—

POPULATION—AGE GROUPS

Age Group	*All Islands*			*Grand Cayman*			*Cayman Brac*			*Little Cayman*		
	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.
0–14	2,273	1,091	1,182	1,771	834	937	487	250	237	15	7	8
15–64	3,878	1,665	2,213	3,114	1,332	1,782	722	315	407	42	18	22
65 and over ..	519	199	320	426	156	270	87	39	48	6	4	2
Total—all ages..	6,670	2,955	3,715	5,311	2,322	2,989	1,296	604	642	63	29	34

Of the population of 6,670, roughly classified according to racial origin, 1,052 were of African, 3,518 of mixed, and 2,100 of European descent.

Birth and death rates per 1,000 population and infantile mortality rates per 1,000 live births for the years 1945–50 were as follows:—

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Births	*Deaths*	*Infantile Mortality*
1945	17·59	14·00	14·00
1946	17·58	6·62	33·00
1947	21·43	7·24	19·87
1948	21·13	8·22	62·50
1949	22·61	7·17	18·30
1950	26·78	7·84	35·35

Digitized by Google

No statistics relating to labour are available, other than those prepared in connection with the 1943 Census. However, as there has been little change since then, the following figures are indicative of the present position :—

OCCUPATIONS

Industry Group	*Gainfully occupied Population*		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Agriculture	264	24	288
Fishing	63	—	63
Manufacturing (Foremen, bakers, blacksmiths, boot and shoe repairers, cabinet-makers, dressmakers, tailors, mechanics, sawyers, etc.)	51	390	441
Construction	127	—	127
Transportation and Communication (Seamen, radio operators, captains, mates, engineers, telephone operators, truck drivers, etc.) ..	678	—	678
Trade (Owners, managers, agents, brokers, store clerks, etc.)	71	54	125
Service :			
(*a*) Professional (Chemists, physicians, dentists, nurses, teachers, engineers, clergymen. etc.)	17	40	57
(*b*) Public (Government officers, policemen, postmistress, and postal carriers, etc.)	11	1	12
(*c*) Personal (Barbers, hairdressers, barkeepers, cleaners, cooks, domestic servants, laundresses, etc.)	56	421	477
(*d*) Clerical	14	7	21
(*e*) Labourers	236	6	242
All occupations	1,588	943	2,531

Social Amenities

Education

Primary Education is free and compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 14 years, and textbooks and material are supplied free of charge.

There are 12 primary schools in the Dependency, eight in Grand Cayman and four in Cayman Brac ; a small school at Little Cayman provides for the few children of school age in that island. The teaching staff in 1950 consisted of 11 men and 16 women teachers of whom eight (five men and three women) are certificated. The Revenue Officer at Little Cayman performs the duties of teacher of the children of that island.

There are four officially recognised private schools, the largest and best equipped of which is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. There are no secondary, technical or adult evening schools and the highest standard reached in the Cayman Islands is the Third Year Jamaica Local (or Pupil Teachers) Examination.

Health

The general health of the Dependency is satisfactory. The main causes of ill-health are connected with food or living conditions.

Sanitation is unsatisfactory, though some improvement has been effected in Grand Cayman in recent years. A large number of households are without latrines and in many cases where latrines do exist they are in a very insanitary condition. Every effort is being made by the Board of Health to obtain the co-operation of the people in making the very necessary improvements.

In July, 1948, Dr. G. Giglioli, Honorary Government Malariologist, British Guiana, visited Grand Cayman to investigate and advise on the mosquito problem in the Dependency in relation to the recent advances in mosquito control technique. In his Report Dr. Giglioli stated that, although there was actually no malaria at present in Grand Cayman, mosquitoes capable of transmitting malaria were abundant and widespread, and, with the advent of air traffic, future epidemics were extremely probable. He advocated large-scale D.D.T. spraying inside the houses, and localised oiling and Paris green applications over a radius of one mile around the main settlements, as well as bush clearing in the same regions. Money has been made available from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to meet the cost of annual D.D.T. spraying for three years.

Housing

The Dependency as a whole is well housed, with wooden buildings predominating, though of late the tendency has been to construct houses of concrete. The houses are generally built on hard-wood piles which raise they a few feet from ground level. They are roofed with either wooden tiles or corrugated iron, the roof serving as a catchment for rain water, which is stored in cement tanks. Many of these wooden dwellings are attractively designed and have around them a generous plot of ground which is generally, and noticeably so in the West Bay settlement, laid out with fruit trees, flowering shrubs and flowers. Save in one or two instances in Georgetown, there is little overcrowding. In the Eastern Districts the typically local style of house framed in local hardwoods and walled with lime mortar and wattles is seen. Practically every house in the Dependency is owned by the occupier.

The census of 1943 covered housing and the figures then recorded revealed that 1,281 houses accommodated on an average 5·2 persons per house, as compared with the 1934 census figures of 1,246 houses with an average of 4·69 persons per house.

There are no Building Societies in the Dependency.

There is a Regional Planning Law, and the introduction of building regulations under this law is under consideration.

Social Security

The Dependency does not maintain a poor house, poor relief being administered through a society of voluntary workers which receives an annual grant from public funds. There is no provision for unemployment.

A Government Savings Bank was established in Grand Cayman in 1908, the Cayman Brac Branch being opened in 1934. At the end of 1941 there were 478 open accounts and the amount standing to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, was £15,155. The corresponding figures at the end of March, 1950, were 1,570 and £116,829 respectively. The steady growth of the Bank during recent years is due to a great extent to the increase in remittances made by Caymanians overseas to their dependants in the Cayman Islands.

Thrift schemes are operated by two co-operative movements in two districts of Grand Cayman. These are the East End Citizens' Association, formed in 1935, and the Cayman Pioneer Club of Boddentown, which have as their principal objects the encouragement of communal activities, both social and industrial.

Political Structure

In the early days of settlement, public affairs were administered by Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The Justices functioned under the direction of one of their number whom they themselves selected and who was styled " Governor ". In 1852 the principle of representative government was accepted and elected members known as Vestrymen were added to the administrative body. At the same time the title " Custos " was substituted for that of " Governor ".

An Act of Parliament, passed in 1863, provided for ratification of all prior acts of the local body receiving the assent of the Government of Jamaica. Under this authority, 20 acts, passed between 1832 and 1864, were submitted to the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent thereto was given in 1865. It was further provided in the

Digitized by Google

Act that the Justices and Vestry should continue to exercise legislative powers, their enactments being subject to the assent of the Governor of Jamaica. Under the same authority the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Dependency, and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed.

In 1898, the powers of the Custos were vested in a Commissioner who combines administrative duties with those of Judge of the Grand Court. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, where the Commissioner resides.

The present Assembly of Justices and Vestry consists of the Commissioner as President, 28 Justices of the Peace and 27 Vestrymen.

The Justices of the Peace are commissioned in a General Commission of the Peace by the Governor of Jamaica, the latest Commission being dated the 12th August, 1946, when 32 Justices of the Peace were appointed.

The election of Vestrymen is held every two years, and is governed by an Act of 1832 which provides that " upon requisition of the Custos or Senior Magistrate, the Magistrates in the district shall call the people together and proceed to elect Vestrymen to serve for two years ". Whereas women would appear to be included in the electorate it has long been the practice for male tax-payers only to vote, the latter being defined in Law 5 of 1927 as " male persons between the ages of 18 and 60 years ". The last election was held in August, 1950.

Economic Legislation

General

The *Jamaica Companies Law* is in force in the Cayman Islands. This permits the formation of companies, with or without limited liability. The Jamaica law permitting the establishment of limited partnerships also applies.

Taxation is levied under the *Tax Collection and Internal Revenue Law*, 1927, which provides for a Personal Tax of 8s. on every male person between the ages of 18 and 60 years resident in the Dependency, and for levies on vehicles, bicycles, boats, canoes, cattle, horses, mules, asses, and dogs.

There is no Income Tax, Land Tax or Estate Duty.

Trade Tariffs

Under the *Customs Tariff Law* the majority of articles imported into the Dependency are subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 12½ per cent. on their c.i.f. value. There is a preferential and a general tariff for some articles such as aerated waters, beer, butter, margarine, bicyles, cement, hardware, spirits, wines, tea and tobacco. Duties under the preferential tariff are mainly at a rate of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem* and under the general tariff at a rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Under the *Hotels Aid Law* persons establishing hotels over a certain size in the Dependency are allowed to import materials, fittings, furniture, etc., duty free. Certain boat-building equipment and material for the equipment of boats is also free of import duty.

The *Pioneer Industries Encouragement Law* No. 1 of 1950 seeks to encourage new industries by granting certain concessions in the way of relief from customs duties to persons establishing factories in connection with such industries. The *Marine Industry (Import Duty and Tonnage Tax) Law*, 1950, gives similar concessions to the boat-building industry.

The only export duties imposed are on coconuts, at the rate of 1s. per thousand nuts exported, and on wines and spirits, at the rate of 5s. per 12 reputed quarts or 2s. 6d. per gallon in bulk.

Under the *Tonnage Tax Law*, 1947, a tax computed on gross weight is imposed on imports. The rates of duty vary from 3d. to 6d. per package of not more than 100 lb. gross weight; the tax on gasolene is 1s. per 50 gallons, on timber 5s. per 1,000 superficial feet, on shingles 2s. per 1,000, on tiles and slates 5s. per 1,000 and on metals 2s. per cwt.

Exemption from tonnage tax is granted to certain foodstuffs, agricultural implements and building materials.

No articles may be imported into the Cayman Islands from " hard currency " areas except under a licence issued by the Competent Authority of the Cayman Islands, in accordance with Orders made under the Jamaica Defence Regulations which are applicable to the Dependency.

Labour

The *Trade Union Law, No. 3 of* 1942, provides *inter alia* for the registration of Trade Unions and defines their powers, duties and constitution. To date no Trade Union has been registered in the Dependency under this Law.

The *Minimum Wage Law, No. 8 of* 1946, provides that where the Governor is satisfied that the wages paid to employees in any particular occupation or trade in the Cayman Islands are unreasonably low, he may by order published locally fix a minimum wage to be paid to such employees. Futhermore, the Governor may, where he considers it advisable, appoint Advisory Boards for the purpose of advising and assisting in the preparation of any order in respect of the fixing of minimum wages.

Land Tenure

The earliest record of a grant of land being made in the Dependency is in 1734; it was followed by further patents in 1741. For many years much of the land was either unused or abandoned. Subsequently, a man would clear a piece of unused land and cultivate it for a few years until it declined in productivity—then he would move on and clear another piece. These lands, temporarily occupied, were generally accepted as belonging to the cultivator and would be re-used from time to time. Probably all the cultivable land is now claimed by someone or other, though it is very doubtful whether many persons could legally prove ownership. Mangroves and buttonwood swamps are usually considered " free land ", but if a question of ownership arises it is considered that half the swamp belongs to the land adjacent to it on one side, and half to the land on the other.

Some lands, known as " free lands ", which are considered of no value for purposes of cultivation, are not claimed by anyone. These lands include areas of Karst which are heavily wooded, and at one time supported excellent timber. The Government owns certain lands, some of which have been acquired by purchase from private owners. These lands largely include the sites of public buildings and proposed sites for schools and other developments.

The conveyancing of land is governed by the *Conveyancing Law of Jamaica*, Chapter 354.

All mineral rights are reserved to the Crown.

Transport and Communications

Internal

Roads. Of the 50 miles of motorable roads in the Dependency, 40 are in Grand Cayman and 10 in Cayman Brac. Little Cayman is served by footpaths only.

The roads are for the most part surfaced with a mixture of limestone, marl and coral-sand. There are no tar-treated roads. The country traversed is uniformly level, which makes any satisfactory system of drainage extremely difficult, and as a consequence considerable damage is done to roads during periods of heavy and persistent rains.

There are no regular omnibus services in operation in Grand Cayman, but a number of motor vehicles make regular journeys between the country districts and the capital carrying passengers and produce. In Cayman Brac two lorries have been converted into omnibuses and maintain a regular service from end to end of that island.

Digitized by Google

At the end of 1950 there were 83 private cars and 26 trucks and station wagons in the Dependency and bicycles are extensively used.

There are no railways or tramways.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

According to the Census of 1943 there are 12,499 acres of farm land, used as follows :—

LAND USE

Island	*Total Acreage*	*In Cultivation*	*In Pasture*	*Woodland*	*Other land*	*Not used*
	acres	*acres*	*acres*	*acres*	*acres*	*acres*
Grand Cayman	11,176	513	6,090	443	411	3,719
Cayman Brac	944	77	597	18	58	194
Little Cayman	379	10	150	—	—	219
Total	12,499	600	6,837	461	469	4,132

The areas under different sizes of farms are as follows:—

SIZES OF FARMS

Island	*Total*	*From 1 to under 10 acres*	*From 10 to under 50 acres*	*50 to under 100 acres*	*Over 100 acres*
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres
Grand Cayman	11,176	446	2,758	2,586	5,386
Cayman Brac	944	52	334	169	389
Little Cayman	379	—	12	86	281
Total	12,499	498	3,104	2,841	6,056

In both Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac telephone systems, operated by Government, link all the principal districts, but there are no private subscribers. There is no inland telegraph.

External

There is no cable communication with the outer world, but the wireless stations at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and Stake Bay, Cayman Brac, work fixed daily schedules with Jamaica and with each other.

The Dependency is not served by any steamship line. Contact with the outside world is maintained by means of a steam-vessel, two small motor-vessels and a number of schooners which are fitted with auxiliary engines. The S.S. "Caymania", a vessel of 730 tons, owned and operated by the Cayman Islands Shipping Company, Limited, maintains a three-weekly passenger, mail and cargo service between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Belize, British Honduras. On both the outward and inward voyages the S.S. "Caymania" calls at Cayman Brac, Little Cayman and Grand Cayman. The operating company is subsidized by the Governments of both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. The motor-vessels and schooners ply at frequent but irregular intervals between Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, British Honduras, Cuba and the Gulf Port of Tampa, Florida.

Georgetown is the principal port of the Dependency. The anchorage area, in which there is ample depth of water for ocean-going vessels, is approximately half a mile north to south by a quarter of a mile east to west. Port facilities are poor. Vessels of shallow draught are able to use a small natural wharf of some 75 feet in length, alongside which the depth at low water varies from 12 to eight feet. A small transit shed adjoins the wharf. There is no lighterage service in operation and there are no bunkering facilities.

Caribbean International Airways, Limited, maintains a weekly seaplane service between Jamaica and Grand Cayman, and a non-schedule service between Grand Cayman, and Tampa, Florida, United States of America. This Company receives a small annual subsidy from the Cayman Islands Government.

The islands' main exports are products of the sea rather than of the land, and they are not self-supporting in food-stuffs. A large proportion of the population, who have a seafaring tradition, find that they can obtain higher incomes by fishing or by working as seamen, especially on American ships.

Many of the islanders are keen agriculturists, but the general standard of agriculture is low and the local diet contains an over-abundance of starchy foods. An effort is now being made to encourage up-to-date farming practices and the growing of more green vegetables, and to attract more of the youth of the dependency to agricultural pursuits. A demonstration farm has been established at Georgetown, Grand Cayman. The immediate direction of this scheme is the responsibility of the Agricultural Inspector from Jamaica.

The numbers of livestock in the islands recorded at the census of 1943 were approximately 1,860 cattle, 80 horses, 120 mules and donkeys, 400 pigs, 120 goats, and 11,000 fowls.

Cattle in the islands are generally of a fine type, large, short-legged, and deep-bodied, and of a fairly uniform light-brown colour ; there is some evidence of Jersey and Guernsey blood, but for the most part the cattle seem to be of a uniform type which appears to have evolved in the islands. Some deterioration in quality has been observed in recent years, possibly owing to a decline in pasture management. In an attempt to improve the local strain of cattle two Montgomery Jersey bulls have been imported. The average live weight of cattle is approximately 400 lb. and the milk yield six quarts per day.

The few pigs on the islands are of a good type, exhibiting considerable Berkshire blood. The average live weight is approximately 300 lb. Poultry are maintained by most families and are generally of a hardy, medium-sized type producing few eggs and only medium body-weight birds for the table. An infusion of new blood would benefit the poultry industry.

Digitized by Google

Local Food Products

The principal root crops (on farms) as shown in the 1943 census were :—

ROOT CROPS

Root Crops	Grand Cayman		Cayman Brac		Little Cayman		Total	
	Cultivated Area (acres)	Quantity Harvested	Cultivated Area (acres)	Quantity Harvested	Cultivated Area (acres)	Quantity Harvested	Cultivated Area (acres)	Quantity Harvested
		lb.		lb.		lb.		lb.
Cassava	117	222,194	34	56,850	2	1,050	153	280,094
Irish Potatoes	6	5,815	—	—	—	—	6	5,815
Sweet Potatoes	31	74,728	5	16,240	5	1,650	41	92,618
Yams	27	70,204	12	66,100	2	600	41	136,904

Other vegetables grown include cabbage, pumpkins, onions, tomatoes, and melons. Tropical fruits such as avocado pears, bananas, plantains, breadfruit, coconuts and citrus form part of the local diet.

Cash Crops

The majority of the owners or occupiers of farm land in the Cayman Islands grow crops primarily for their own consumption. Only a small number, principally those in the poorer districts of Grand Cayman, are entirely dependent for a living on the proceeds from the sale of their produce. Cattle are owned almost entirely by the larger landowners, who augment their earnings by the sale of these cattle to the local butchers.

Forestry

The most remarkable feature of the vegetation of Grand and Little Cayman is the Buttonwood-Mahogany association.

Buttonwood swamps occur over a large part of the island of Grand Cayman and also on Little Cayman. They overlie those portions of the Bluff Limestone formation, particularly in the centre of the islands, which are virtually at sea level. Where buttonwood swamps occur over the Ironshore formation the vegetational associations are similar, except on Cayman Brac where Mahogany is absent. Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus L.*) is the dominant tree : the next most abundant is Mahogany (*Swietenia mahagoni* (*L.*) *Jacq.*) with occasional Manchineel (*Hippomane manchinella L.*), White Wood (*Tabebuia leucoxyhlon Mart.*), and Wild Plum (*Picrodendron baccatum* (*L.*) *Krug. and Urb.*). These trees frequently occur on " islands " amongst the Buttonwoods—i.e.—places where the land may rise no more than one to two feet above the surrounding swamp. In such isolated spots one may find mahogany trees three to four feet in diameter and the other species of trees of proportionate size. Owing to the low elevation of the land, the lack of glades and the consequent low canopy of the forest in general, the boles of the mahoganies are always short—rarely more than 10 to 12 feet in height.

Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle L.*) and White Mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa Gaertn.*) line the shores of the Great Sound and lagoons and ponds wherever they may occur. Associated with the mangroves is the herbaceous *Batis maritima L.* Behind the sandy beach between Georgetown and West Bay, the Black Mangrove is fairly common, along with the other mangroves and Buttonwood.

The coastal and beach vegetation is typical for the West Indies. Amongst the trees found are Seaside Mahoe, locally known as " Popnut " (*Thespesia populnea* (*L.*) *Soland.*), Broad Leaf (*Cordia caymanensis Urb.*), Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera* (*L.*) *Sarg.*), and the introduced *Casuarina equisetifolia Forst.*, and Almond (*Terminalia catppa L.*). Amongst the shrubs, the Cocoplum (*Chrysobalanus icaco L.*), occurs abundantly on the inner side of the beach between West Bay and Georgetown and elsewhere. Juniper (*Suriana maritima L.*), Sea Lavender (*Tournefortia gnaphalodes* (*L.*) *B.Br.*), are other typical shrubs at the tops of sandy beaches. *Rachicallis americana* (*Jacq.*) *Kunt°e* occurs almost exclusively behind the rocky foreshore extending from Georgetown southward. Sisal (*Agave sp.*) grows well along the inner slopes of the beaches and elsewhere on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.

Secondary vegetation includes Maiden Plum, Mahogany seedlings and Thatch Palm (*Thrinax argentea Sarg.*). The latter grow readily from seed but the young trees are easily damaged and destroyed by cattle. Thatch Palm provides the raw material used in the local rope industry.

The abundant lands in the interior of the eastern end of the island, which have probably not been utilised, except as pastures, since the abolition of slavery, show mango trees, naseberries and other fruit trees mixed with the native mahogany, machineel, etc., in rapidly regenerating forests.

Guinea grass (*Panicum amximum Jacq.*) rapidly and spontaneously colonizes any interior land which is burnt over. This encourages burning as a method of preparing pastures. Since 1938, however, Seymour grass (*Andropogon metusus L.*) has made its appearance, and has occupied large areas of pastureland.

The main requirements for timber in Grand Cayman are for boat-building, house construction, firewood and to a lesser extent for furniture and fence posts. There are no saw-mills and even pit-saws are unknown ; most timbers are rough hewn in the forest (though for all sawn stock, timber is ripped by ordinary carpenter's saws, generally up to 30 inches). When timber is required from land other than the owner's, a royalty is paid to the owner equivalent to one-third or a quarter of the market value of the timber. There is great wastage, particularly in the use of mahogany, a tree often being cut out for a few natural bends and the remainder abandoned.

Minor forest produce is represented by Mangrove Bark, the unopened leaves of the Thatch Palm used for making rope and plaited articles, and the opened thatch leaves for thatching huts and houses.

There is no legislation affecting forestry, though under the Defence Regulations an Order has been made prohibiting the export of mahogany except under licence : no mahogany with a girth of less than 22 inches at three feet from the ground may be cut for export.

Fisheries

Deep-sea fishing, which constitutes one of the main industries of the Dependency, is operated by the wealthier merchants or the owners of schooners. Turtle and shark are taken on the banks, shoals and cays that lie off the coast of Honduras and Nicaragua. Live Green Turtle and shark products are exported to the Unites States of America. Lobster caught off the banks find a ready market in the Canal Zone. The ship's company works on the share principle. The owner of the vessel supplies the material for making nets, buoys, etc., while the crew prepare the nets and buoys and make the vessel ready for the sea. From the gross proceeds of the catch a sum is deducted from royalty payable to the Nicaraguan Government. The balance is divided between the crew's share and the owner's share, from the former being deducted the cost of stores supplied by the owner prior to sailing.

Digitized by Google

The following table gives the quantity and value of live Green Turtle, turtle skin and shark skin exported during 1949 and 1950 :—

	1949		1950	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
		£		£
Live Green Turtle (No.)	3,205	9,615	3,389	12,507
Turtle Skin (lb.)	11,653	2,860	15,039	4,544
Shark Skin (lb.)	29,208	2,640	25,192	2,519

The quantity of shell of the Hawksbill Turtle, the tortoise-shell of commerce, exported in years past was considerable but has declined sharply during the past two years. The state of uncertainty in Europe has greatly affected this luxury trade, as has the introduction of plastics in recent years.

Coastwise fishing is carried on by the smaller fishermen, generally working in pairs. Fishing in local waters is entirely for local consumption, and demand is far in excess of supply; a great number of fishermen fish a little on a subsistence basis.

Fishing is chiefly done with troll line for the pelagic species, and with up and down line and simple, square, chicken wire pots for the bottom fish. The latter have never reached the specialisation seen in Jamaica and are rarely, if ever, worked below 20 fathoms. The usual type of boat is a simple planked double-ender which carries from one to five men, two or three being the usual number; oars are the usual method of locomotion and a simple sail is often fitted. This type of boat is known locally as a "Cat" boat, but should not be confused with the vessel that goes by this name in New England.

The main fishing seasons occur in the first three months of the year. The most notable is the Grouper season. This is evidently a spawning run, occurring in about 10 to 15 fathoms on shallow banks, and it is reported to be timed with the phases of the moon. The chief places where it occurs are on the banks lying east-north-east of each of the three islands. The fish congregate at the full moon in January and February for a few days, and are then in such quantities that the fishermen can catch more in a few hours than they can dispose of locally. Apparently the potential catch is never even approached. This Grouper run is quite distinct from the deep water grouper fishing, which does not appear to have any definite season and where the fish run up to 200 lb.

The Kingfish and Queenfish run is not so clearly defined. These fish are taken on troll lines by two men working from a small boat under sail. Kingfish average about 20 lb., though they are reported up to 50 lb.; Queenfish average about 40 lb. Dolphins are caught in the same manner; while fish up to 40 lb. are reported, the average appears to be rather less than 15 lb. Bonito are reported up to 25 lb., though the average is under half that figure.

Besides the groupers already referred to, the up-and-down and pot fishing yields much the same variety of snappers, jacks, grunts, and trash found in the shallower pots in Jamaica, except that there appears to be less trash and small fish. The really deep water fish are not taken in these pots, and very little attempt is made to take them. The ubiquitous Barracuda is always fishable, and the islanders prefer it to most other fish.

The formation of Co-operative Organisations among the fishermen of the various districts of Grand Cayman, with a view to increasing output and improving distribution, is encouraged by Government.

Minerals

Phosphatic deposits were worked commercially in all three islands from 1884 to 1890, but they were reported to be low grade and of small extent. A geological survey of the islands was made in 1924, but it did not reveal any mineral deposits of commercial value.

Manufactures

The chief "secondary" industry of the Dependency is boat-building. For many generations the islanders have been expert boat-builders, and although the industry suffered during the war from shortage of material, it is now being revived again.

The Colonial Development Corporation have undertaken the establishment of a turtle cannery in Grand Cayman.

Village Industries

The manufacture of rope from the leaves of the Thatch Palm is a cottage industry of considerable importance. The quantity and value of rope exported since 1939 have been as follows :—

ROPE EXPORTS

Year	*Fathoms*	*Value*
		£
1939	1,444,000	1,526
1940	1,864,000	2,001
1941	1,456,875	2,185
1942	1,507,300	2,550
1943	1,404,750	3,603
1944	1,101,575	3,311
1945	1,566,550	2,875
1946	1,349,745	5,513
1947	1,042,150	5,211
1948	1,194,625	5,973
1949	1,424,000	7,120
1950	2,120,750	12,762

In addition, baskets, fans and hats are made for local use from the plaited thatch.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

There are three small hotels in Grand Cayman, one of which was completed in 1950, and none in the lesser islands.

A small number of tourists have visited the islands and availed themselves of their unusual attractions. In Grand Cayman the principal attraction is the five-mile-long beach on the west coast between Georgetown, the capital, and West Bay. The possibility of developing this area as a tourist resort by private enterprise is now being investigated.

Distributive Trade

The retailing of all imported foodstuffs and general merchandise is handled by the 65 shops in the Dependency, the great majority of which are small one-roomed buildings. The merchants of Grand Cayman, with few exceptions, import direct the goods they need, while those of Cayman Brac obtain most of their requirements through the one business house in Grand Cayman which handles the wholesale trade.

Locally grown fruit, ground provisions, plaintains, etc., are sold by the farmer or a member of his family from door to door, and a small quantity of surplus produce is brought from the country districts of Grand Cayman to Georgetown by motor-truck to be sold at the roadside.

Milk is delivered to regular customers in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, by the producer and is also on sale either on the farms or in the shops of the various districts. The supply, however, is limited. Bread is usually made by the householders themselves; the only two bakeries in the Dependency are both situated at Georgetown. In Georgetown meat is sold in the markets; elsewhere it is disposed of by the butcher on the spot to purchasers.

Fish is sold on the beaches by the fishermen, and only occasionally is there a surplus which makes door-to-door hawking necessary.

Digitized by Google

Co-operative Movement

In 1935 the residents of East End, Grand Cayman, organised the East End Citizens' Association, and in 1947 the Cayman Islands Pioneer Club of Boddentown, Grand Cayman, was formed. The former has a membership of approximately 80 and the latter 55.

The objects of the two organisations are very similar—to give support to all communal activities which will promote the social and industrial good of the district and island as a whole.

In 1947 the East End Citizens' Association were able through their Savings Union, with the aid of a small loan from the Government, to purchase a motor truck for transporting produce grown in the district to the Georgetown market. The truck is also used to convey passengers to and from the capital.

The Pioneer Club of Boddentown operates a Savings Union as well as a Buying Club. It is now, with the support of Government, taking the lead in the organisation of the fishermen of the island into Co-operative Groups, which are to be followed by the formation of an All-Island Fishermen's Association.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

The supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour is small, but is adequate in relation to the very limited local employment opportunities. Unskilled labour also is about adequate to meet local demands. There is little unemployment.

Average wage rates at the end of 1950 were as follows :—

Unskilled labour	9s. to 10s. a day
Stevedores	1s. 6d. an hour
Shipwrights	25s. to 40s. a day
Carpenters	25s. to 40s. a day
Painters	15s. to 20s. a day

Female shop assistants are paid on an average £4 per month and domestic servants from 30s. to 60s. per month with partial board. In the Straw Rope Industry women supply the greater part of the labour, and their earnings average about 12s. a week.

In most industries and trades there is a 40-hour week, the exceptions being shop assistants and store clerks, who work a 45-hour week.

Migrant Labour

There is little internal migration in any of the islands or between the three islands.

External migration is for the most part confined to Caymanian seamen who proceed overseas, principally to the United States of America, in search of employment in various capacities ranging from Ordinary Seaman to Chief Engineers and Masters. In addition some have sought, and obtained, employment in skilled or semi-skilled capacities in Central and South America, principally Panama and Venezuela. In a number of cases these men have settled permanently abroad with their families.

As a rule men obtain employment through their own efforts, though on a few occasions the recruitment of seamen for specific shipping companies has been handled by Government through the Shipping Master, there being no Labour Department.

During 1948 Money Orders and cheques to the value of £33,554 and £26,390 respectively were received in the Dependency from emigrant labour. In addition the sum of £4,627 was paid out in allotments on behalf of seamen employed through the agency of Government.

Power

Only Georgetown, Grand Cayman, is provided with electricity, supplied by a private company.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

Before the late war a large proportion of Government revenue was derived from the sale to philatelists of special issues of Cayman Islands postage stamps. In the early years of the second World War these receipts decreased appreciably, and this decrease was reflected in the total revenue of the Dependency. In 1941, however, they again rose and this rise has been maintained.

Since 1941 revenue has increased steadily, as a result not only of the sale of more postage stamps, but also of the very considerable increase in the spending power of the public, which has resulted in a rise in the volume of imports and in the amount of import duties collected. This increase in the incomes was due to the large remittances sent home to their families by Caymanian men who obtained employment at high wages as seamen on United States vessels, in the British Merchant Navy, and the Trinidad Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, or as skilled or semi-skilled workers in the Canal Zone.

The following figures illustrate the improvement in the Dependency's financial position since 1938 :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–50

Year	*Revenue*				*Expenditure*
	Sale of Stamps	*Import Duty*	*Other*	*Total*	*Total*
	£	£	£	£	£
1938	7,307	4,052	1,894	13,253	11,859
1939	1,159	4,266	2,130	7,555	14,821
1940	1,216	4,931	1,841	7,988	10,354
1941	4,141	5,435	3,227	12,803	11,924
1942–43	6,316	8,892	3,717	18,925	12,703
1943–44	13,892	9,725	4,315	27,932	22,137
1944–45	5,375	11,591	4,189	21,155	28,533*
1945–46	11,793	12,997	4,590	29,380	23,106
1946–47	13,443	14,208	3,549	31,200	28,950
1947–48	11,680	16,602	6,093	34,375	31,890
1948–49	16,681	19,223	8,214	44,118	34,078
1949–50†	20,927	13,495	11,033	45,455	44,150
1950–51‡	25,000	18,600	25,919	69,519	66,662

* Includes £8,000 placed to Reserve Funds.
† Revised Estimate.
‡ Approved Estimate.

It will be noted that at the end of 1941 the financial year was altered so as to commence on the 1st April and end on 31st March.

The following tables give in some detail the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1948–49, 1949–50, and 1950–51.

REVENUE

Head	1948–49	*Revised Estimate* 1949–50	*Approved Estimate* 1950–51
	£	£	£
Customs	19,223	20,927	17,500
Licences and Other Internal Revenue ..	972	1,059	1,034
Harbour Dues, etc. ..	574	552	531
Fees of Office, etc. ..	30	20	25
Post and Telegraph Departments	18,622	15,457	26,820
Government Property ..	62	78	62
Departmental Revenue ..	519	541	531
Miscellaneous Receipts ..	507	580	120
Reimbursements	56	64	7
Total exclusive of Colonial Development and Welfare Funds ..	40,565	39,278	46,630
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ..	3,533	6,177	22,889
Grand Total	44,118	45,455	69,519

Digitized by Google

EXPENDITURE

Head	Revised Estimate 1948–49	Revised Estimate 1949–50	Approved Estimate 1950–51
	£	£	£
His Honour the Commissioner and Staff ..	2,644	2,760	3,469
Treasury, Customs and Post Office	6,305	6,649	9,032
Education	3,730	3,925	6,177
Judicial	689	671	1,121
Legislature	88	117	135
Medical and Public Health	2,944	3,134	4,278
Miscellaneous	5,092	6,697	2,194
Pensions	240	413	394
Police and Prisons ..	2,130	2,928	4,124
Port and Marine ..	435	265	325
Public Debt Charges ..	704	704	704
Public Works Recurrent..	4,285	4,153	7,179
Public Works Extraordinary	1,040	2,868	1,700
Reserve and Replacement Funds	79	79	79
Social Services	1,185	1,468	1,360
Wireless Stations ..	751	900	1,204
Competent Authority ..	185	242	268
Agriculture	—	—	30
Total exclusive of Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ..	32,526	37,973	43,773
Development (including Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes)..	1,964	6,177	22,889
Grand Total	34,490	44,150	66,662

The greater part of Government's expenditure, apart from salaries and allowances of Government officers and employees, is on the maintenance of Public Property, Telephones and Roads, and on Education, Medical and Public Health and Poor Relief. Subsidies are paid to the Companies operating the steamer and plane services between Jamaica and the Dependency.

The position in regard to loans was as follows at 31st December, 1950 :—

Designation and Amount of Loan	Balance Outstanding on 31st December, 1950	Remarks
Hurricane Loan, 1933 £3,660 3 per cent.	£1,533	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1938.
Public Works Loan, 1938 £6,500 3½ per cent.	£3,479	Repayable to Government of Jamaica in 20 years from 1st April, 1940.

The Hurricane Loan was obtained to finance the cost of repair of the widespread damage caused by the hurricane of 1932. The Public Works Loan of 1938 was secured to enable the erection of public buildings and other works of improvement in the Dependency.

Local Government

Though all the affairs of the Dependency are handled through the Commissioner at Grand Cayman, the government of the lesser islands is to a great extent the responsibility of the District Commissioner stationed at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. Annual allocations under the various heads of Expenditure are made to this Officer, who is also responsible for the collection of Revenue at Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Currrency and Banking

British silver and copper, together with Jamaica coins—penny, half-penny and farthing—are in circulation. Silver coins are legal tender up to 40 shillings, and copper up to one shilling. Government of Jamaica notes of the denominations of £5, £1, 10s. and 5s., and a decreasing number of notes issued by private banks in Jamaica, are in circulation. Currency notes and bank notes are unlimited legal tender.

No banking facilities are available except for those offered by the Government Savings Bank which conducts business at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, and at Stake Bay, Cayman Brac. The Bank was established in 1908, the Branch at Cayman Brac being opened in 1934.

At the end of 1941 there were 476 open accounts and the amount standing to the credit of depositors, inclusive of interest, was £15,155. The corresponding figures at the end of March, 1950, were 1,570 and £116,829 respectively.

Private Investment

Only two Limited Liability Companies are operating in the Dependency, one a boat-building company registered in Jamaica, with its Head Office in Cayman Brac, and the other registered in the Bahamas with its Head Office at Nassau. Both are externally controlled.

The other business concerns operating in the islands are locally controlled, and as they are not registered under the Companies Law of Jamaica (Cap. 260), which is applicable to the Cayman Islands, they must be regarded as private companies or partnerships. The principal business of the local companies is the importation and sale of general merchandise ; a few own and operate sailing, steam and motor vessels, either in the turtle trade or as general carriers.

Cost of Living

There is no cost of living index, but prices of most staple commodities have increased to between 200 and 300 per cent. of pre-war level.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Imports and domestic exports by value since 1938 have been as follows :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Year	Imports	Exports
	£	£
1938	29,555	12,749
1939	31,123	8,383
1940	36,362	9,675
1941	34,537	8,980
1942	55,072	9,762
1943	71,283	9,971
1944	82,494	12,861
1945	91,661	27,998
1946	104,295	27,817
1947	122,448	20,162
1948	139,491	19,241
1949	144,450	22,764
1950	199,950	37,619

The structure of visible trade is illustrated by the following figures of principal imports and exports for the years 1949 and 1950. For purposes of comparison with pre-war years the figures for 1938 are also shown.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Item	Unit	1938 Volume	1938 Value £	1949 Volume	1949 Value £	1950 (*estimated*) Volume	1950 (*estimated*) Value £
Flour	barrels	3,555	3,050	2,756	7,378	3,202	7,720
Corn Meal	barrels	874	598	369	1,329	445	1,462
Rice	cwt.	700	309	373	788	359	1,344
Sugar	tons	286	1,602	163	4,798	240	8,246
Textiles and Wearing Apparel	—	—	4,523	—	7,686	—	13,327
Oil : Petrol	gals.	27,600	558	54,692	2,823	62,212	5,099
Kerosene	gals.	16,631	348	38,852	2,390	44,616	3,534

The following table gives the values for principal countries of origin of imports, and of destination of exports in 1938 and 1948 :—

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE

Imports	1938 £	1938 per cent.	1948 £	1948 per cent.
United Kingdom	3,173	10·8	2,137	1·5
Jamaica	6,562	22·2	46,211	33·1
Other Commonwealth Countries	1,699	5·8	2,148	1·5
U.S.A.	11,856	40·0	80,833	58·0
Other Foreign Countries	4,554	15·4	3,641	2·6
Parcel Post	1,711	5·8	4,521	3·3
Total	£29,555	100·0	£139,491	100·0

Exports	£	per cent.	£	per cent.
United Kingdon	2,000	15·7	38	—
Jamaica	5,667	44·5	9,713	50·5
Other Commonwealth Countries	—	—	—	—
U.S.A.	5,048	39·6	9,490	49·6
Other Foreign Countries	29	—	74	—
Total	£12,744	100·0	£19,241	100·0

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Item	Unit	1938 Volume	1938 Value £	1949 Volume	1949 Value £	1950 Volume	1950 Value £
Turtles	no.	3,489	4,684	3,205	9,615	3,389	12,507
Rope	000 fathoms	1,487	1,858	1,424	7,120	2,121	12,762
Turtle skin	lb.	4,400	382	11,653	2,860	15,039	4,544
Shark skin	lb.	8,119	2,435	29,208	2,640	25,192	2,519

The average value of imports and exports during the five years ending 1950 was £142,127 and £25,521 respectively. This adverse visible trade balance was counterbalanced by a very favourable invisible balance, arising mainly from sales of postage stamps to collectors abroad, profits from services to foreign shipping, the employment of Cayman Islanders in foreign ships, and remittances from Islanders working abroad, particularly in the United States of America.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

The Cayman Islands Ten Year Plan was prepared in 1945 with the assistance of the Secretariat and Technical Officers of the Government Service of Jamaica. The Draft Plan provided for capital expenditure of £83,503, non-recurrent expenditure of £5,565, and additional annually recurrent expenditure of £7,570. It was proposed to allocate £100,000 to the Dependency from the allocation to Jamaica and its Dependencies under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Of this amount approximately £88,000 has been allocated among the various schemes and approximately £12,000 set aside as an unallocated reserve.

The plan was under revision late in 1951.

The objects of the original plan were to meet the urgent need for improvement in social and economic conditions. The plan provided for improvement in Agriculture, Education, Medical and Public Health Services, Communications and Minor Industries. A brief resumé under each head is given below.

Agriculture

It was proposed that there should be established near or at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, a Demonstration Farm and that for this and co-related purposes an Agricultural Instructor should be seconded from Jamaica. This farm has now been set up and an Agricultural Instructor seconded from Jamaica for three years. The Instructor will, as well as exercising supervision over the Demonstration Centre, frequently tour the country districts and the two lesser islands for the purpose of establishing and supervising school gardens and 4-H Clubs.

Education

There are an adequate number of primary schools in the Dependency but there are no facilities for further education, academic or vocational, other than those afforded by a small well-run private school in Georgetown, Grand Cayman. Under the plan it was proposed that a senior school should be established, which should have a pre-vocational character based on the practical interests and necessities of the islanders. Provision was also made for the replacement of certain school buildings, the training of a supervising teacher (who has now taken up duty), the obtaining of aditional school furniture and equipment and construction of playing fields.

Medical and Public Health

The scheme under this head provided for the erection of a 28-bed hospital at Georgetown, Grand Cayman, a Government Medical Officer's Quarters, Rural Health Centres, the training of a Caymanian as a dispenser, the purchase of dental equipment and the salary of a dentist for a period of years, the erection of a number of storage tanks in the three islands of the Dependency, the carrying out of investigations and experiments in mosquito control, assistance in construction of latrines, etc.

Digitized by Google

The present hospital is a small building in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, capable of accommodating four patients. Work on the new hospital was expected to begin in 1951.

Social Welfare

The principal provisions cover the salaries of two Social Welfare Officers for a period of four years and the erection of libraries in various districts of the two larger islands. There is already a library in existence in Georgetown.

Fisheries

There is provision to enable experiments in the dry-salting of fish to be made.

Miscellaneous

Under this head the principal items are (i) the development of Minor Industries, (ii) the carrying out of many necessary works of construction, e.g., a road, sea-wall, police station and post office at West Bay, and a new Government House at Georgetown, (iii) the improvement of the ships' basin at Georgetown, and (iv) the purchase of a road roller. The possibility of establishing an airfield on Grand Cayman is under active consideration.

Expenditure

The amount spent to 31st March, 1950, on all Colonial Development and Welfare schemes was as follows :—

	£
Agricultural development	1,379
Road approaches, West Bay	1,847
Road construction equipment	2,115
Training of Nurses	1,578
Salary of Supervising Teacher	508
Construction of hospital of 28 beds and medical quarters	2,236
Miscellaneous	1,062
	£10,925

Other Development

The possibility of the development of a tourist industry in the Cayman Islands, particularly in Grand Cayman, is being actively pursued by private enterprise and it is hoped that plans now being formulated will be put into effect during 1949. Interest in the possible development of the fisheries of the Cayman Islands, including turtle and shark, is also being evinced by private industry.

Digitized by Google

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

(DEPENDENCY OF JAMAICA)

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21° and 22° north latitude and 71° and 72° 50′ west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They are about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda, and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands Passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of the islands, which extend over 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south, is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands, and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, lying to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal about 58 miles long on its northern side, and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides, respectively.

In his Survey of Sponge Grounds (1938), Dr. H. H. Brown describes the geological structure of the Caicos Bank as " a flat-topped rock rising steeply from the ocean bed, consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin ; this rock mass comprises the whole Caicos Banks and Cays and is similar to other rock masses of the Bahama group." The principal islands of the Caicos group—South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos—lie on the northern and eastern sides of the Bank, and are separated from each other by narrow passages.

At a varying distance from the ocean coast line of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef. On the islands the limestone is weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock, in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush.

The climate may be described as good. The temperature range throughout the year is from 60° minimum to 90° maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally hot, the heat is to some extent tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December is generally pleasant. The maximum and minimum temperatures for 1949 were 91° and 65·1°, with a mean maximum and minimum of 84·9° and 74·2°.

The average monthly and annual rainfall during the period 1940–49 was as follows :—

In three of the last five years there was exceptional drought.

Population

The last census was taken in 1943, when the total population of the Dependency was 6,138. The racial distribution was as follows :—

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent ..	122

The estimated total population in 1950 was 6,600.

The population of the various islands was as follows :—

Grand Turk	1,668
Salt Cay	420
Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos)	826
Middle Caicos	717
Bottle Creek (North Caicos) ..	1,703
Blue Hills	804

The female population is substantially larger than the male ; in 1943 the total numbers were 3,347 and 2,791 respectively. The numbers in various age-groups are shown below :—

POPULATION—AGE GROUPS

		Males	*Females*	*Total*
Children :	0– 4 years ..	369	432	801
	5–14 years ..	719	704	1,423
Adults :	15–64 years ..	1,565	1,998	3,563
	65 years and over ..	138	213	351

From 1946 to 1949, annual birth, death and infant mortality rates have been as follows :—

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES, 1946-49

	Births (per thousand population)	*Deaths (per thousand population)*	*Infant Mortality (per thousand live births)*
1946	31·3	14·3	142·0
1947	33·9	12·6	118·2
1948	30·1	13·6	128·2
1949	34·7	11·2	114·3
1950	36·2	8·3	100·0

It is usual for emigration to exceed immigration. The figures for recent years are :—

	1948	1949	1950
Arrivals ..	173	168	208
Departures ..	289	258	263

Particulars are given in the census of 1943 regarding the number of persons in various occupations.

Average Monthly Rainfall

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Inches	2·24	1·46	0·79	1·88	2·35	0·84	1·27	2·32	1·91	5·98	4·35	2·09	27·45

Annual Rainfall 1940–50

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Inches	38·25	29·64	32·92	35·02	26·40	11·28	25·77	19·73	15·94	21·58	17·38

Digitized by Google

OCCUPATIONS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
All occupations ..	1,542	1,147	2,689 (of whom 960—699 men and 261 women—are wage earners)
Agriculture ..	495	583	1,028
Fishing	174	—	174
Manufacturing and mechanical (including tailors, dressmakers ..	88	117	205
Construction ..	90	—	90
Transport and Communication	179	2	181
Trade	40	71	111
Service	89	344	433
Professional ..	20	27	47
Public	26	1	27
Personal ..	43	316	359
Clerical workers ..	6	6	12
Labourers ..	431	24	455

About 200 men are employed fairly regularly in the salt industry. There are few skilled or semi-skilled workers, such as masons, carpenters, fitters, drivers, etc., and no engineers or electricians, other than the expatriate staff of Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited.

Social Amenities

Education

Primary education is provided free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but not in the outlying Caicos Islands, where it is not possible to maintain schools to meet the requirements of some of the small isolated communities.

There are 11 elementary schools. Scholars enrolled in 1949 numbered 934, and the average attendance was 674. There were also two private elementary schools, with a total of 19 pupils.

Owing to the lack of proper training facilities in the past, there has been great difficulty in obtaining qualified teachers for the schools. Improvement in the standard of school buildings, equipment, sanitation, playing grounds, etc., is badly needed, and a grant for these purposes has been made from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

There is a Senior Government School at Grand Turk. In 1949 there were 28 pupils on the roll, and the average attendance was 26. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924, and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results. It is proposed to extend the senior school, and the number of places in it is to be doubled.

No technical education or evening classes are available.

Over 90 per cent. of the Dependency's population is literate, and there is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. There are sub-libraries at six other centres. Considerable assistance in regard to library facilities has been given by the British Council.

Health

Malnutrition and avitaminosis, particularly of the B complex group vitamins, is common among the population, but their effects have been reduced by the use of food yeast, and also cod-liver oil, which is supplied free to children and expectant mothers.

In summer diarrhoea is common, and the eye condition of pterygium, caused by the excessive glare from the roads and salt heaps, is found in the salt making districts. There have been some cases of suspected typhoid fever with a small number of deaths during recent years. Droughts and poor sanitation were predisposing factors. A possible widespread outbreak in 1948 was checked by the prompt innoculation against this disease with T.A.B. vaccine. Malaria is almost non-existent except in the Caicos Islands. There has always been a certain amount of leprosy in the Caicos Islands ; confirmed cases are now being sent to Jamaica for treatment.

There is only one hospital in the Dependency, the Manning Hospital at Grand Turk ; it has 15 beds, and an operating theatre. Plans have been prepared for the erection of a small new hospital at Grand Turk, and the existing hospital is being renovated. It is also intended to build public health centres at Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. At Bottle Creek in the Caicos Islands there is a welfare clinic and a small maternity ward with a trained midwife in attendance. There were in 1950 two nurses, who had taken courses in Jamaica in Public Health work, and it is hoped that, when clinics have been built, that there will be a nurse with Public Health training in each of the islands.

Almost all water for drinking and washing is rainwater stored in private and public tanks. There are 17 public tanks with a total capacity of 725,000 gallons.

Drinking water is sold at 1d. for four gallons, and frequently has to be rationed during dry periods. The tanks become inadequate as a source of supply during the long dry season, and use is then made of one or two deep wells, owned by the Government, which are to be found in the islands. On occasion it is found necessary to import water. There are also some shallow wells which provide a water supply for cattle. The catchments for the Public Tanks are to be improved and increased in area.

There is no sewage system. The pit latrine is the type principally used throughout the islands.

Housing

According to the 1943 census there were 1,365 dwelling houses in these islands ; 889 were built of wood, 446 of stone, and 30 were of other construction. During the 1945 hurricane 536 dwelling houses were destroyed and 754 damaged, but 233 houses have now been rebuilt and 473 damaged houses repaired. Almost the whole of the wage-earning population live in small houses of two or three rooms, with small outhouses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. Sanitary conditions are fair. There is no building law and the people are free to build as they please. A complete revision of the out-of-date public health legislation and the introduction of building regulations is under consideration, as is also the imposition of a property tax. There are no building societies.

There is no apparent shortage of dwellings, although some of those existing are in very poor condition.

Social Security

There is no Government system of insurance against old age, sickness, or unemployment, but relief is granted in necessitous cases ; its cost was about £900 in 1950. There are, however, seven friendly societies which give assistance to their members in case of distress, sickness and death.

Political Structure

In 1848 the Turks and Caicos Islands were separated from the Colony of the Bahamas—of which they form part geographically—and were constituted a Presidency under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica. The expenses of the administration proved too great, and in 1873 the islands were, at the wishes of the inhabitants, annexed to the Colony of Jamaica, of which it still remains a dependency ; the Government of the islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, and certain laws of Jamaica are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

There is a Legislative Board, consisting of the Commissioner and three official and four unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board is required.

Digitized by Google

The Chief Executive Officer and Officer administering the Government is the Commissioner, who is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and is appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The seat of Government is at Grand Turk, where the Commissioner resides. The Commissioner's staff includes an Assistant Commissioner, a Government Officer at Salt Cay, and a District Commissioner for the Caicos Islands. The Dependency has the usual Departments—Medical, Treasury, Public Works, etc., and its own Customs tariff, laws, postage stamps, and so forth.

Economic Legislation

General

Company legislation is similar to that of the United Kingdom Companies Act of 1864. The only company registered in the Dependency is that which was formed in March, 1951, to operate the nationalised salt industry. It is proposed to adopt the new Company Law, which is in draft in Jamaica, when it becomes law.

The Fishery Protection Ordinance of 1941 gives power to control fishing, sponging, turtle catching, etc., in territorial waters, and the processing and export of these products. So far the only control is over fishing for crawfish, which is prohibited between 1st April and 30th June. All fishermen and boats must be licensed, and crawfish under a certain size may not be taken. An exclusive licence is required for processing and exporting crawfish and an export cess of one cent (United States currency) per crawfish or tail is imposed.

There is no direct taxation, but property rating and licensing of cars, cycles, etc., is proposed.

Trade Tariffs

All goods not particularly specified nor included in the free list pay duty are as follows :—

British Preferential Tariff .. 10 per cent. *ad valorem*
General Tariff .. .. 15 per cent. *ad valorem*

Specific duties are levied on butter and butter substitutes, cheese, lard, grain and flour, meats, sugar and tea ; mineral waters, cider, beer, wines, spirits and tobacco ; oils (including motor spirit), soap, cement, arms and ammunition, animals and animal feeding stuffs. The general tariff rates are 33⅓ per cent. to 50 per cent. above those of the preferential tariff. Duties are moderate except those on beer and spirits, which are high.

Medical supplies, books, school requisites, printing paper, machinery, boats, beans and peas, fruits and nuts, fresh vegetables and salt are among the items free of duty.

There is no import licensing as such, but dollars are only granted for the most essential requirements from hard currency areas. Most imports into the Dependency are on Government account, and whenever possible they are obtained from soft currency areas.

Labour

Under the Trade Unions Ordinance of 1942 all trade unions must be registered, a Registrar being appointed by the Commissioner. At present there are two trade unions in the Dependency.

Under the Minimum Wages Ordinance of 1941 the Governor in Privy Council can fix minimum wages by order in particular trades or occupations when he is satisfied that they are unreasonably low, and may appoint Advisory Boards to assist and advise in the preparation of minimum time, piece, or other rates. Orders have been made fixing wages in the salt industry.

As from the end of 1950, the Workmen's Compensation law of Jamaica was brought into force in the Dependency.

Land Tenure

Land unless originally conveyed by Crown Grant is Crown Land. The present policy is to lease land and not to permit further alienation of Crown Lands.

By an Ordinance of 1857 aliens are specifically permitted to hold lands, houses, etc., on lease, but the ownership of land in the Dependency by aliens is illegal.

Immigration

Under the Immigration Ordinance passed in 1950 persons likely to become a public charge because of infirmity of body or mind, and persons who are deemed undesirable by the Commissioner because they have been sentenced or for other reasons, can be refused permission to land, together with their dependants under 16. Persons without passports are not allowed to land unless they can establish their identity and nationality. Visitors can be given permits to remain, valid for periods up to twelve months.

Transport and Communications

The M.V. " Kirksons " sails at approximately monthly intervals between Grand Turk and Jamaica and carries general cargo, mails and passengers.

There are frequent cargo and mail services by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company's vessels to and from New York. The vessels call primarily for coast-wise crews and for labour for Curacao. Royal Mail steamers call every three to four months, whenever there is sufficient cargo from the United Kingdom.

There are three ports of entry—Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

At the end of the year 1950, there were 121 registered vessels owned in the Dependency, totalling 1,599 tons. The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year 1950 was as follows :—

	Number	*Net Tonnage*
Total shipping entered	357	132,020

There is communication between the Dependency, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and the Bahamas Islands by small sailing vessels engaged in trade. Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

There is a fortnightly air service operated by the Compania Dominicana de Aviation between Grand Turk, South Caicos and Ciudad Trujillo in the Dominican Republic.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via Jamaica. The Post Office dealt with about 200,000 postal articles during 1949.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction ; there are cables to Jamaica, Barbados and Bermuda. Cable and Wireless Limited supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy. The Government radio-telephone system provides, in co-operation with Cable and Wireless Limited, service between Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. In 1949 a radio-telephone service was opened between Grand Turk and Kingston, Jamaica.

There is a small Government-operated telephone service at Grand Turk—with official and private connections. The system was destroyed in the hurricane of 1945, but has since been reconstructed and further extended. There are no overland telegraphs, their place being taken by radio-telephone.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements are kept in good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bush paths. There are no railways, tramways, or omnibuses.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Agriculture is mainly carried on in the Caicos Islands, where the people can, in a good year, produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves for a few months, and sell a surplus at the salt producing islands. Sisal and cotton are also grown, the former in increasing quantities. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown, and the people have to rely mainly on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imported food,

Digitized by Google

As a result of the extremely poor soil and the small and most uncertain rainfall, agricultural conditions are poor and there seems little prospect of their being improved, as there are no streams or rivers, and except in one or two cases, wells are brackish and salt. The primitive methods of cutting and burning the bush imported from Africa by the slaves of over a century ago, still prevail. Farming provides only a bare subsistence, and almost every item of food, drink, clothing, building materials, etc., has to be imported.

According to the census of 1943, the total area of farm land was 11,068 acres, of which 2,248 acres was in cultivation and 6,757 acres was cultivable, but not used. The number of holdings of various sizes was as follows :—

Number of Holdings—1943

Under 5 acres	35
5– 9 acres	43
10–24 acres	96
25–49 acres	71
50–99 acres	38
Over 100 acres	21
Total	304

Cattle-keeping is limited by the exceptionally poor pasturage and the lack of fresh water, and only a poor stunted type of scrub cattle can survive. However, given water storage and some simple form of silage, to provide fodder in the long dry spells, an improvement in stock might be possible. Goats might fare better but they would certainly destroy the small crops planted on the annually shifting farms. It is proposed to experiment with keeping goats on Pine Cay, which is uninhabited and has grass above the average in quality, and fresh water available from one of the rare sweet water wells. Pigs do quite well, but they rarely attain any size, and they depend largely on imported food which renders them uneconomic.

Poultry and turkeys do well, but the cost of imported food for them is very high.

The census of 1943 gives the following particulars regarding numbers of livestock :—

Numbers of Livestock—1943

Cattle ..	317	Pigs ..	1,166
Horses ..	58	Goats ..	86
Mules ..	127	Poultry ..	14,187
Donkeys ..	292		

Local Food Products

A small amount of corn, cassava, and sweet potatoes and a few vegetables are produced in the Caicos Islands. There are also occasional grapefruit, lime and papaw trees. Coconuts were once produced in quantity, but disease and hurricanes have killed off almost all the trees. The replanting of coconut trees might well prove advantageous.

Cash Crops

The principal cash crop is hand-cleaned sisal. During the war a number of sisal farms were planted to provide relief work, and the produce of both these and privately-owned farms is sold under Government auspices ; at present the Jamaica cordage manufacturers take the entire output, which rose to 92 tons in 1950, and is expected to increase further. The scattered nature of the farms and the lack of fresh water militates against mechanical decortication, which is essential if the best prices are to be secured.

A similar marketing scheme is in operation for cotton which was formerly grown extensively. Government owns a small gin, and there are prospects that cotton also may become a fairly substantial cash crop for the Caicos farmers.

Forestry

Because of the low rainfall, poor soil, and recurrent hurricanes there are few trees, and those that exist are mainly stunted. There is a considerable area in the Caicos Islands which is sparsely forested with small pines, and there is a certain amount of small mahogany, which is used chiefly for knees and ribs in boat building. There are also a limited number of lignum vitae, casuarina, palm thatch and other trees. No proper survey of the limited forest resources has ever been made ; there is no doubt that they could be improved by conservation. The greatest enemy of the trees is the charcoal burner, and the charcoal burners' activities are hard to check because of the local need for fuel.

Fisheries

It is thought that the Dependencies' fishery resources, properly exploited, could be a source of much more employment and wealth than at present. The main possibilities appear to be :—

(*a*) *Fishing for local consumption.* Although the Caicos Bank is a very rich fishing ground, and edible fish such as grouper, spanish mackerel, bone fish, king fish and barracuda are plentiful, there never appears to be enough fish to satisfy the local demand, and despite the ready availability of salt, very little fish is cured, and salt cod from Newfoundland has to be imported. Insufficient capital, difficulty in getting hooks and lines, and lack of initiative seem to be the main reasons for this state of affairs.

(*b*) *Shark fishing.* Demand is chiefly for shark liver oil of high vitamin content. The majority of sharks caught locally are basking and shallow water sharks with low vitamin content liver oil. Hides and fins have less commercial value.

(*c*) *Conch fishing.* The flesh of these large shell fish is widely eaten locally and an average of over three million dried conches are exported annually to Haiti. It is possible that the flesh of the conch, cleaned, cellophane packaged and deep frozen, may find an increasingly large market in the United States of America, under a more euphonious trade name. The shell of the conch formerly had a good market for making buttons, cameos, etc., but the advent of plastic seems to have killed this trade.

(*d*) *Crawfish* are found in quantity on the Caicos Bank and are now processed, frozen and exported by a company operating under licence. They find a ready market as "lobsters" in Miami and elsewhere in the United States of America. Legislation has been passed to prevent overfishing and the taking of small or spawning fish.

(*e*) *Turtle.* Green and Hawksbill turtle are fairly common, but are probably not available in commercial quantities.

(*f*) *Game fish* of the sort to attract the American sportsman almost certainly exist. Possibilities for investment of capital under favourable conditions are good—once the fish are found—since the islands have uninhabited cays and beautiful bathing beaches, and are near Florida and in the line of the direct Miami–San Juan (Puerto Rico) air route, and are not far from the Nassau–Kingston (Jamaica) route.

Minerals

So far as is known there are no mineral resources ; but there has been no geological survey.

Village Industries

There are no village industries except for a certain amount of straw hat making and ornament making from shells and fish scales. Both industries offer some scope for expansion.

Digitized by Google

Other Industries

The principal industry is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. It is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. Over the past 25 years output has averaged about 43,000 tons annually ; the principal markets are Canada, Newfoundland, the United States of America, Jamaica and Japan. The salt is used for fish-curing, meat-packing, human consumption, and industrial purposes. Until 1951 the salt ponds, or salinas, which vary considerably in size, were in the hands of about 30 owners, and under an Ordinance passed in 1940 a Salt Industry Board, consisting of five members—including the chairman—nominated by the Governor, had the sole right to export salt, and had power to allocate quotas to registered producers, to restrict the quantities to be produced for export, and to control the industry generally. With the formation of the new national company, however, the Board has ceased to exercise these functions.

Normally three grades of salt—coarse, fishery, and three-quarter ground—are produced ; the machinery for milling the three-quarter ground quality is at Salt Cay. The loading of the salt into cargo vessels is done by means of lighters. The new company has taken over the grinding plants and shipping and lighterage facilities. The coarse and fishery grades of salt are largely shipped in bulk, while the three-quarter ground, which is used industrially, is bagged. The average price received per ton has risen in recent years, from 14s. 0d. in 1947, to about 16s. 4d. in 1948, and about 25s. 0d. in 1949. The production of finer grades of salt was to start in 1951, and it is intended to increase the efficiency and speed of loading and lighterage.

Turks Islands salt was famous for its purity, and had an excellent reputation in the countries purchasing it, but in recent years the industry has declined, as a result of the splitting up of salinas into small holdings, loss of markets during the war, deterioration in the purity of the salt produced, and lack of capital for the re-design of salinas and for the improvement of loading facilities and lighters. However, since an investigation which was made in 1945, there has been a steady improvement in the quality of the salt. While the establishment of the Salt Industry Board has prevented the excessive price-cutting which formerly took place, and has helped to improve the general position of the industry, it was generally agreed that further reorganisation and re-equipment were essential, and it is intended that these should be carried out by the new company.

Co-operative Movement

There is no consumers' co-operative movement, and producers' co-operation has not been developed. There are, however, joint marketing arrangements with Government assistance for sisal and cotton.

Employment and Labour Supply

The main demand for labour in the islands of Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour is in connection with the salt industry and does not exceed 200 men. This demand is to some extent a seasonal one, though the increased exports of recent years have tended to make work in the industry almost continuous. The loading of salt into ships requires a considerable amount of extra labour, which is provided by the temporary employment of fishermen, artisans, tailors, and the like. The wages paid for shipping are good and the supply of casual labour for this purpose exceeds the demand. During shipping some women are employed to fill the small half-bushel bags which are used for loading lighters, but the employment of women for this work is less common than formerly.

There is an increasing amount of employment on steamers and at Curaçao, and labour is required by the salt industry at Inagua and in the lumber industry at Abaco, both in the Bahamas. Unemployment has been severe for many years, and there is a tendency for the best men to leave the Dependency whenever a chance of employment elsewhere occurs ; there has, however, been some improvement in the employment situation since 1947.

In recent years there has been a tendency for wages to rise and in 1950 their general level was well above the legal minimum rates. The average rate of wages for male labourers employed in raking and carting salt was from 5s. 6d. to 6s. 0d. a day of nine hours, and for loading it into ships from 12s. 0d. to 18s. 0d. a day. Carpenters, masons and blacksmiths earned from 12s. 0d. to 18s. 0d. a day of nine hours. Plumbers and the few lorry drivers earned 10s. 0d. to 15s. 0d. and painters 8s. 0d. to 12s. 0d. a day.

In domestic service wages varied from 7s. 6d. to 20s. 0d. a week for female servants, with rations. The employment of men in domestic service is now rare. The payment of wages in goods from the stores of salt proprietors, which was common in the past, is no longer prevalent.

Fuel and Power

With the exception of a limited amount of charcoal which is consumed locally all fuel has to be imported. There is no public supply of electricity for lighting or power.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

During the period 1938 to 1950, annual revenue and expenditure have been as follows :—

ANNUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—1938–50

Year	*Total Revenue*	*Grants*	*Other Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*	*Development and Special Expenditure (Main items)*	*Other Expenditure*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938	14,359	471 C.D.	13,888	14,661	1,691 C.D.	12,970
1939	9,781	1,010 C.D.	8,771	13,830	3,040 C.D.	10,790
1940	14,491	4,237 C.D.W.	10,254	13,991	1,598 C.D.W.	12,393
1941	24,297	9,772 C.D.W.	14,525	23,853	11,597 C.D.W.	12,256
1942	16,287	3,711 C.D.W.	12,576	23,019	5,694 C.D.W.	17,325
1943	34,758	14,035 C.D.W.	20,723	34,701	13,119 C.D.W.	21,582
1944	34,815	4,863 C.D.W.	29,952	30,562	4,626 Hurricane Relief 2,561 C.D.W.	23,375
1945	60,962	19,457 Hurricane Relief 4,038 C.D.W.	37,467	50,200	19,850 Hurricane Relief 948 C.D.W.	29,402
1946	60,808	18,000 food subsidies 12,988 Hurricane Relief 3,064 C.D.W.	26,756	69,052	18,584 Hurricane Relief 18,000 food subsidies 3,838 C.D.W.	28,630
1947	39,838	8,000 Hurricane Relief 7,757 C.D.W.	24,081	50,760	9,390 Hurricane Relief 7,957 C.D.W.	33,413
1948 (revised estimates)	77,354	13,175 C.D.W. 150 Hurricane Relief	64,029	51,914	12,081 C.D.W. 150 Hurricane Relief	39,681
1949 (estimates)	100,240	28,000 food subsidies 4,795 C.D.W.	67,445	94,805	28,000 food subsidies 5,000 food sudsidies (local funds) 4,210 C.D.W.	57,595
1950 (estimates)	80,473	23,566 C.D.W.	56,907	91,978	24,723 C.D.W.	67,255

Digitized by Google

The Dependency is accustomed to balance its accounts, and does not receive Imperial grants-in-aid, though assistance has been given in special circumstances and for particular objects, e.g., to help to make good the loss caused by the hurricane of 1945, and to reduce the cost-of-living through food subsidies—as well as, of course, for projects coming under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. There is no permanent public debt, but the operations of the Food Control Department are financed by an interest-bearing advance made by the Jamaica Treasury, and over the years 1945 and 1946 the Jamaica Government made an advance of £4,000 for the establishment of sisal farms ; repayment of this advance has been made at the rate of £800 annually from 1948 onwards.

The main items of revenue for the financial year 1949–50 are estimated as follows :—

	£
Customs Duties	16,300
Royalty on Salt	4,800
Port Dues	650
Internal Revenue	665
Fees of Court and Office	318
Departmental Revenue	186
Reimbursements	1,100
Post Office	30,240
Interest	100
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,585
Colonial Development and Welfare	4,795
Extraordinary Revenue	39,501

The main items of expenditure for the financial year 1949–50 are estimated as follows :—

	£
Pensions	1,213
Commissioner's Department	5,631
Treasury and Customs	3,602
Judicial Department	1,240
Police and Prisons	2,811
Prisons	1,878
Medical Department	5,225
Paupers and Lunatics	1,200
Education	2,614
Miscellaneous	3,450
Post Office	3,449
Lighthouse Department	1,736
Savings Bank	392
Public Works Department	536
Public Works Recurrent	3,625
Colonial Development and Welfare	4,210
Extraordinary Expenditure	51,993

The principal sources of revenue are import duties and the royalty on salt exported. Stamp sales were high in 1949. Direct taxation is light, as there is no income tax, but various new taxes are proposed. Stamp Duties were first imposed in 1948.

Currency and Banking

Jamaica currency notes and British silver of all denominations are in circulation.

At 31st December, 1950, the Government Savings Bank had 1,515 depositors and the total value of deposits amounted to £65,741. Deposits and withdrawals during the year were £32,136 and £27,713 respectively, and the book value of investments at 31st December, 1950, was £65,971.

Private Investment

Until the formation in March, 1951, of the new publicly owned company acquiring the salt industry, there were no companies incorporated in the Dependency, though the words " and Company " and " Limited " are used loosely and quite harmlessly to give a somewhat more impressive title to some of the local businesses. The principal investment is in the Salt industry, the assets and stocks of which are worth well over £100,000.

Cost of Living

There is no cost-of-living index, and no survey of the cost of living has ever been made. As in other colonies, prices have risen greatly as compared with before the war ; control over the prices of the main articles of consumption was introduced during the war and has been maintained since, and in 1946 and 1949 substantial grants were made from Imperial funds for subsidies on foodstuffs to reduce the cost of living. Even so, the standard of life of the mass of the population remains extremely low.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The values of imports and exports during the period 1937–50 have been as follows (there are no re-exports) :—

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1937–1950

	Imports	*Exports*		*Imports*	*Exports*
	£	£		£	£
1937	25,654	29,978	1944	58,272	14,367
1938	25,974	23,099	1945	93,731	21,293
1939	23,708	24,604	1946	60,864	31,891
1940	30,133	38,213	1947	72,244	55,501
1941	39,828	39,297	1948	82,756	62,415
1942	31,148	18,456	1949	102,524	70,772
1943	70,163	12,646	1950	101,630	35,296

The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal imports and exports in 1938 and 1947, also the main sources of supply for imports, and destinations of exports, in each case.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1947		
		Quantity	Value	Main Sources	Quantity	Value	Main Sources
			£			£	
Flour—wheat and rye	barrels	2,656	2,607	Canada (2,447)	3,500	13,729	Canada (all)
Corn	lb.	284,590	1,192	Haiti (591), S. Domingo (370), Jamaica (229)	220,485	2,660	S. Domingo (2,091), Haiti (569)
Rice	lb.	202,177	1,192	India (1,183)	104,623	3,050	Jamaica (2,061), Haiti (989)
Sugar—refined and unrefined	lb.	257,889	1,037	U.S.A. (all)	381,400	4,361	Jamaica (all)
Lard	lb.	57,972	1,069	U.S.A. (920), U.K. (149)	46,100	3,292	Jamaica (2,812), U.S.A. (480)
Meat, smoked and salted, and sausages	lb.	30,918	714	U.S.A. (all)	37,388	2,800	Canada (2,603), U.S.A. (158)
Meat, tinned	—	—	252	U.S.A. (all)	—	1,739	U.S.A. (all)
Milk, condensed, evaporated, and powdered	—	—	900	U.S.A. (795)	—	3,256	Jamaica (2,112), Canada (795), U.S.A. (344)
Butter	lb.	10,179	518	U.S.A. (276), U.K. (125)	28,110	2,436	Jamaica (1,624), Canada (660)
Vegetables, fresh	barrels	691	287	U.S.A. (190), Haiti (73)	697	1,107	S. Domingo (542), Jamaica (329), Haiti (208)
Fruit, fresh	—	—	326	Haiti (258), U.S.A. (41)	—	1,503	Haiti (849), S. Domingo (416), Jamaica (238)
Fish, dried, salted and tinned	—	—	206	U.S.A. (111), Canada (95)	—	1,066	Canada (all)
Provisions	—	—	373	U.S.A. (350)	—	1,758	Jamaica (787), Canada (543), U.S.A. (360)
Wines and spirits	gallons	1,515	343	U.K. (137), Br. Guiana (110), Jamaica (80)	7,398	2,960	Barbados (1,884), Jamaica (670)
Tobacco and cigarettes	lb.	4,198	622	U.S.A. (311), U.K. (299)	4,600	1,116	Jamaica (593), U.S.A. (500)
Soap, laundry	lb.	26,729	299	U.S.A. (296)	23,259	830	Jamaica (760)
Cotton goods	—	—	2,144	U.S.A. (1,915), U.K. (229)	—	9,004	Jamaica (6,175), U.S.A. (2,168), U.K. (418)
Haberdashery	—	—	766	U.S.A. (745)	—	2,275	Jamaica (1,903), U.S.A. (340)
Boots and shoes	—	—	379	U.S.A. (304), Japan (60)	—	624	U.S.A. (252), Jamaica (186), Haiti (108)
Timber	ft.	97,000	646	Canada (366), U.S.A. (242)	32,543	740	Bahamas (453), Jamaica (237)
Boats and hulls	—	—	962	Canada (950)	—	1,400	Jamaica (all)
Fuel oils	gallons	15,337	561	U.S.A. (all)	18,524	889	Jamaica (all)

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1947		
		Quantity	Value	Main Sources	Quantity	Value	Main Destinations
			£			£	
Salt	tons	34,089	18,451	Canada (10,580), U.S.A. (5,052), Jamaica (2,169)	70,340	49,869	Japan (25,889), Jamaica (10,475), Canada (6,590)
Conches	No.	599,451	584	Haiti (all)	3,631,750	3,632	Haiti (all)
Crawfish	—	—	1,293	U.S.A. (1,133), Canada (160)	—	2,000	U.S.A. (all)
Sponge	lb.	19,494	2,251	U.S.A. (1,063), Bahamas (917), U.K. (271)	300	10	Bahamas (all)

Digitized by Google

In recent years the value of imports of goods has tended to be considerably larger than the value of exports, as a result of Imperial Grants for Hurricane Relief, Colonial Development and Welfare, etc. There are also remittances received from men working in the Bahamas and at Curacao—which were estimated to amount to £17,000 in 1949 and £22,264 in 1950—and expenditure by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited in excess of local traffic receipts, which has been about £5,000 per annum in recent years.

Changes in the direction of trade, before and after the war, have been as follows :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

	Sources of Imports				*Destination of Exports*			
	1938	1948	1949	1950	1938	1948	1949	1950
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	8·1	0·7	35·8	31·9	1·8	—	—	—
Other Commonwealth Countries..	21·8	63·9	49·3	39·9	63·6	40·8	51·7	56·3
United States of America ..	62·4	7·2	9·2	20·7	32·1	3·1	3·8	22·5
Other Foreign Countries	7·7	28·2	5·7	7·5	2·5	56·1	44·5	21·2
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

IV. DEVELOPMENT

The Development plan which was approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in November, 1948, provides for the expenditure of £150,000, all of which is being provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The following table shows the capital and recurrent expenditure proposed under various heads ; also the residual recurrent expenditure to be met from local funds after the Colonial Development and Welfare grants have been spent, and the amounts actually spent up to 31st December, 1950 :—

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

Head	*Capital expenditure*	*Recurrent expenditure*	*Residual recurrent expenditure*	*Amount spent to 31st December, 1950*
	£	£	£	£
Agriculture ..	2,385	7,282	1,685	3,300
Education ..	13,200	8,547	1,575	4,200
Public Health	25,300	14,100	3,039	10,800
Salt Industry	3,118	—	—	9,783
Social Welfare	460	1,500	300	—
Miscellaneous	13,598	7,360	650	17,275
Total ..	58,061	38,789	7,204	46,358

The above table does not include the proposed expenditure from Colonial Development and Welfare funds on the re-organisation of the salt industry, or an allocation to reserve. Including these items, the grant of £150,000 is to be divided as follows :—

	£
Capital expenditure	58,061
Recurrent expenditure	38,789
Reserve fund	3,150
Salt industry re-organisation ..	50,000
	£150,000

The principal schemes under the various heads are as follows :—

Agriculture. It is proposed to continue the work of agricultural improvement and experiment, on which £10,000 has already been spent under an earlier scheme. The main work to be done will be on sisal and cotton growing, processing, and marketing.

Education. An Education Officer and a Supervising Teacher have been engaged for a period of three years, to advise and assist in the re-organisation of the educational system. As well, there are to be new schools and improvements to existing schools, additional school equipment, cottages for teachers and a grant towards the cost of improving teachers' salaries.

Public Health. Provision is made for training nurses in Jamaica, additional houses for medical Officers, a Health Centre at Cockburn Harbour, a new Hospital at Grand Turk, and a number of clinics, and for the removal and treatment of lepers. Experimental houses are to be built with a view to improving working-class housing conditions.

Social Welfare. Provision is made for the training of welfare officers and the maintenance of delinquent children.

Miscellaneous. Funds are allocated for two new lighthouses which have now been built, for the extension of the sea-wall at Grand Turk, which has been carried out, for the employment of additional administrative staff, and the improvement of water supplies.

Salt Industry. The economic future of the Dependency rests on the prosperity of the salt industry, and unless it can be brought into a satisfactory condition the maintenance of the standard of living and social improvements will not be possible. The re-organisation scheme, which came into effect in March, 1951, provides for a tripartite division of ownership between the Turks and Caicos Administration, the Colonial Development Corporation, and the existing proprietors. A new company has been formed, with a capital of £170,000, of which the Administration is to hold £56,000 in the form of Ordinary Shares ; the Colonial Development Corporation is to provide £60,000, against a corresponding holding of debentures, and the present proprietors are to receive preference shares to the value of £54,000 (as well as £30,000 compensation in cash). The Administration already holds an interest in the industry amounting to £6,000, and the additional £50,000 is to be provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The control of the industry will be in the hands of the Administration. Approximately £70,000 of new capital is expected to be available for improving its equipment and efficiency.

Digitized by Google

LEEWARD ISLANDS

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The colony of the Leeward Islands consists of a number of islands belonging partly to the Lesser and partly to the Greater Antilles. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat, and Anguilla form part of the Lesser Antilles, and lie between 61° and 63° W. and 15° and 19° N., while the British Virgin Islands to the north and north-west of them form the eastern extremity of the Greater Antilles. The main islands in this latter group are Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada, and Jost van Dykes ; it contains altogether 11 inhabited islands.

The colony is grouped politically into four Presidencies —Antigua, including Barbuda and the uninhabited islet of Redonda ; St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla and dependent islets ; Montserrat ; and the Virgin Islands. The areas of the various Presidencies are as follows :—

	sq. miles	
Antigua	108	
Barbuda	62	
Redonda	½	
Antigua Presidency		170½
St. Kitts	68	
Nevis	50	
Anguilla	35	
St. Kitts-Nevis Presidency		153
Montserrat Presidency		37½
Tortola	21	
Other Virgin Islands	46	
Virgin Islands Presidency		67
Total		428

Topographically the islands differ considerably. Antigua has a small range of hills rising to about 1,300 feet, but consists for the most part of fairly level plains at no great height above sea level. Its soils vary from volcanic detritus in the south-west to heavy clays in the central plain, while in the north-east there are limestone soils containing some clay, which are highly fertile when rainfall is adequate. Barbuda is a coral island nowhere rising more than about 200 feet above sea level ; its soil, which is shallow, is of limestone origin. The rocky islet of Redonda rises to 1,000 feet above sea level. On St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat there are extinct or dormant volcanoes, rising to an altitude of around 3,000–4,000 feet, and cratered at their summits. The upper slopes of these mountains, from an altitude of about 1,100 feet, are heavily forested, and the lower slopes, down to the sea, consist of sloping detritus traversed by deep ravines and terminating in low cliffs on beaches. On St. Kitts these foothills consist of fine volcanic ash which is very fertile, but on Nevis they are strewn with large boulders which hinder cultivation and make the land suitable only for rough pasture. On Montserrat the soils are mainly sandy loams, also of volcanic origin, but in limited areas in the north there are heavy volcanic clays which are difficult to work. Anguilla is a low coral island, which nowhere rises more than 200 feet above sea level ; about two-thirds of the island is either bare or has soil too shallow for cultivation, but the remaining third, where the depth of the soil is adequate, is extremely fertile. The Virgin Islands are of volcanic origin and are mostly rugged and hilly—Tortola rises to about 1,750 feet and Virgin Gorda to about 1,350 feet, and their soils are rocky and difficult to cultivate; but Anegada, which consists of limestone, has practically no soil and hardly rises above sea level.

The climate throughout the islands is dry and fairly healthy. The mean temperature is about 80° F. (somewhat less in the Virgin Islands), and the range of temperature is from about 65° F. to 90° F. The warmer months are from May to October. The rainy season is between August and January ; the rainfall tends to be heavier in the hilly islands, the annual averages over a period of years being Antigua 44 inches, St. Kitts-Nevis 55 inches, Montserrat 62 inches, and the Virgin Islands 50 inches. On all the islands water supplies are limited in relation to needs. The position is most serious on Antigua where there are only a few small streams ; on St. Kitts, there are only three rivers which reach the sea, and only one of those flows at all times of the year, and the two rivers on Nevis which reach the sea have their permanent sources less than a mile from the shore. Montserrat has a number of streams, but few of them are permanent. On the remaining islands the principal sources of water are wells, springs, and shallow ponds, which are often somewhat brackish. The Leewards are subject to hurricanes ; in 1950 there were two, which were especially severe and caused much damage, in Antigua and Barbuda, while St. Kitts-Nevis experienced earth tremors, which caused some damage to property in Nevis.

Population

The population of the Leeward Islands at the end of 1950 was estimated at 114,647 persons, as compared with 108,838 at the time of the last census held on April 9th, 1946. Population statistics for the various islands are shown in the following table :—

POPULATION, 1946 AND 1950

Island or Presidency	1946 *Census*				31*st December* 1950
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*	*Density per sq. mile*	*Persons*
Antigua	18,569	22,209	40,778	378	
Barbuda	442	537	979	16	
Antigua Presidency	19,011	22,746	41,757	245	45,611
St. Kitts	13,581	16,237	29,818	439	
Nevis	5,062	6,326	11,388	228	
Anguilla	2,218	2,819	5,037	144	
St. Kitts-Nevis Presidency	20,861	25,382	46,243	302	48,501
Montserrat Presidency	6,362	7,971	14,333	382	13,535
Tortola	2,624	2,797	5,421	258	
Other Virgin Islands	522	562	1,084	24	
Virgin Islands Presidency	3,146	3,359	6,505	97	7,000
Total	49,380	59,458	108,838	258	114,647

Digitized by Google

As will be seen from the table, there is a considerable excess of females over males in all the islands, for which the emigration of young men has been largely responsible ; this excess has, however, been becoming less in recent years. Of the 1946 population, 77,914 persons were recorded as living in rural areas, and 30,924 persons in urban areas ; the principal towns are St. John's, Antigua, which is the capital (1946 population 10,965), Basseterre, St. Kitts (12,194), and Plymouth, Montserrat (2,162).

As the following table shows, the population is almost entirely of African or mixed descent :—

POPULATION BY RACIAL GROUPS, 1946

Island or Town	*African*		*Mixed*		*European*		*Asiatic*		*Not Stated*	
	Numbers	%	*Numbers*	%	*Numbers*	%	*Numbers*	%	*Numbers*	%
Antigua	34,919	85·6	4,889	12·0	694	1·7	80	0·2	196	0·5
Barbuda	518	52·9	460	47·0	1	0·1	—	—	—	—
St. Kitts	25,614	85·9	3,280	11·0	773	2·6	96	0·3	55	0·2
Nevis	10,325	90·7	905	8·0	64	0·6	64	0·6	30	0·3
Anguilla	4,023	79·9	906	18·0	88	1·7	5	0·1	15	0·3
Montserrat	13,319	92·9	917	6·4	71	0·5	17	0·1	9	0·1
Tortola	4,717	87·0	674	12·4	29	0·5	—	—	1	0·02
Other Virgin Islands..	953	87·9	125	11·5	6	0·6	—	—	—	—
Colony	94,388	86·7	12,156	11·2	1,726	1·6	262	0·2	306	0·3
St. John's	7,131	65·0	3,225	29·4	406	3·7	80	0·7	123	1·1
Basseterre	9,520	78·1	2,134	17·5	413	3·4	88	0·7	39	0·3
Plymouth	1,702	80·9	347	16·5	37	1·8	17	0·8	—	—

The following table shows the numbers in the principal age groups, for the islands as a whole. Variations from island to island are quite marked, the proportion in the age-group 15–44 being highest in St. Kitts (49·5 per cent.) and Antigua (45·8 per cent.), and lowest in Anguilla (34·8 per cent.). The proportions in this age-group were particularly high in Basseterre (52·3 per cent.) and St. John's (51·0 per cent.).

POPULATION BY AGE-GROUPS, 1946

Age Group	*Numbers*			*Persons per cent. of total*
	Males	*Females*	*Persons*	
0–14	20,318	20,607	40,925	37·6
15–44	22,383	26,286	48,669	44·7
45–64	4,808	8,542	13,350	12·3
65 and over	1,835	4,001	5,836	5·4
Not stated	36	22	58	—
	49,380	59,458	108,838	100·0

The total population of the islands reached a maximum during the nineteenth century of 100,882 in 1891, after which there were declines at successive censuses to 85,183 in 1921, followed by a recovery to 108,838 in 1946 ; the average annual rate of increase during this last inter-censal period was 0·98 per cent., and as is shown in the following table, there was some increase in all the principal islands with the exception of Nevis :—

Birth, death, and infant mortality rates in recent years have been as follows :—

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Births per thousand population

	Leeward Islands	*Antigua*	*St. Kitts-Nevis*	*Montserrat*	*Virgin Islands*
1946	34·4	37·1	32·4	29·4	42·1
1947	35·9	38·1	32·5	36·0	46·5
1948	32·6	35·8	29·8	29·6	37·0
1949	34·7	35·8	34·3	29·5	39·8

Deaths per thousand population

	Leeward Islands	*Antigua*	*St. Kitts-Nevis*	*Montserrat*	*Virgin Islands*
1946	17·6	14·9	20·3	16·7	17·5
1947	15·3	16·4	14·9	13·9	13·5
1948	16·0	18·1	15·1	13·8	15·7
1949	12·5	11·9	12·7	12·2	14·0

Infant Mortality per thousand births

	Leeward Islands	*Antigua*	*St. Kitts-Nevis*	*Montserrat*	*Virgin Islands*
1946	122·6	100·0	156·1	104·1	147·7
1947	96·3	92·4	97·0	104·9	100·0
1948	100·0	122·0	99·1	95·7	119·8
1949	77·5	67·9	76·9	93·0	116·1

Migration

During the period 1921–46 there was an estimated inward movement of population into Antigua (including Barbuda) of 814 persons, and into St. Kitts of 2,717 persons, while there were estimated outward movements from Nevis (3,941 persons), Anguilla (1,187 persons), and Montserrat (3,573 persons). These figures represent the difference between change in population shown by the

POPULATION CHANGES, 1921–46

	Antigua (including Barbuda)	*St. Kitts*	*Nevis*	*Anguilla*	*Montserrat*	*Virgin Islands*
1921	29,767	22,415	11,569	4,230	12,120	5,082
1946	41,757	29,818	11,388	5,037	14,333	6,505

Digitized by Google

registers of births and deaths and that actually recorded at the census dates. Statistics of births and deaths are not available for the Virgin Islands, so that for this Presidency it has not been possible to make an estimate of migration ; for St. Kitts there are no figures for births and deaths for the period 1921 to 1926, and an estimate of natural increase has been made for that period. Comparison of the above figures with the recorded arrivals and departures shows that there is a considerable movement of population to and from the islands which is not recorded.

Occupations

The numbers of persons in the principal occupations, by racial groups and Presidencies, are shown in the following table :—

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

	African	*Mixed*	*European*	*Other*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Antigua*	*St. Kitts-Nevis*	*Montserrat*	*Virgin Islands*
Farmers and farm managers ..	3,827	401	84	18	4,330	3,160	1,170	1,654	1,135	841	700
Farm labourers	18,335	849	52	65	19,301	9,498	9,803	6,222	9,636	3,122	321
Quarrying, mining, fishing, forestry	1,185	136	21	5	1,347	1,330	17	574	607	86	179
Factories and workshops*	3,972	796	65	25	4,858	2,781	2,077	2,190	1,859	613	196
Building*	1,994	279	15	10	2,298	2,289	9	1,040	826	316	116
Transport*	1,458	251	45	10	1,764	1,687	77	651	871	109	133
Trade and Commerce†	1,816	202	121	73	2,497	795	1,702	1,081	1,149	233	34
Recreational, professional and public services	1,492	574	196	14	2,140	1,397	743	1,025	822	222	71
Personal service	4,738	824	54	32	5,648	689	4,959	2,711	2,259	566	112
Clerical	369	281	90	8	748	493	255	433	241	58	16
Labourers‡	2,743	257	12	10	3,022	2,428	594	1,094	1,382	441	105
Occupation not stated	55	13	2	2	72	44	28	29	22	10	11
Total	41,984	5,012	757	272	48,025	26,591	21,434	18,605	20,809	6,617	1,994

* Not including labourers. †Not including clerical workers. ‡Not including workers in farming, fishing, quarrying or mining.

Social Amenities

Education

The educational system is controlled by Boards of Education in each of the four Presidencies. Education is compulsory from 5 to 13 years of age (12 years of age in the Virgin Islands) and is free to 15 or 16 years of age. There are classes in woodwork and handicrafts for boys and domestic subjects for girls, but otherwise there is little provision for vocational education.

In the Presidency of *Antigua*, there are 25 Government schools, and one grant-aided and four recognised private schools for primary education. There was accommodation for 8,656 children in the primary schools in 1950, but the average attendance was only 5,872, partly as a result of the hurricanes, which damaged a number of the schools. There are also five secondary schools, which had 908 pupils in 1950 ; four of these schools receive grants-in-aid. The Administration provides 35 scholarships to the Antigua Grammar School and 25 scholarships to the Antigua Girls' High School. A women teachers' training college is run by the Moravian Church with a Government grant-in-aid. Adult education classes are held under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies, and by voluntary organisations with Government assistance.

In the Presidency of *St. Kitts*, there are 32 Government primary schools—17 in St. Kitts, 10 in Nevis, and five in Anguilla—together with one grant-aided primary school in St. Kitts. In 1950 there were 10,440 pupils enrolled, and average attendance was 7,593 ; it has not been possible to enforce compulsory attendance on account of shortage of school accommodation. There are also one private and two Government secondary schools in St. Kitts and one Government secondary school in Nevis, with a total of 610 pupils enrolled. Adult education classes are held under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies.

In *Montserrat* there are 11 Government primary schools, and one private primary school receiving a grant-in-aid. In 1950 there were 3,246 pupils enrolled, and average attendance was 2,712. There is one Government secondary school, which had 87 boys and 71 girls on the roll in 1950.

In the *Virgin Islands* there are 12 primary schools—eight in Tortola, two in Virgin Gorda, and one each in Anegada and Jost van Dykes. Ten of these schoools are managed by the Methodist Church, one by the Anglican Church, and one by the Government. In 1950 the number of children enrolled was 1,460 and average attendance was 1,040. There is also a Government secondary school, in Road Town, which had 58 pupils enrolled in 1950.

According to the 1946 census, about two-thirds of the population, and about 85 per cent. of the population over 10 years of age, are able to read and write ; these proportions were about the same in all the Presidencies, though in Montserrat the proportion of adult literates was somewhat lower than elsewhere, being approximately 81 per cent.

Health

On the whole, the islands are reasonably healthy, though the frequent droughts in Antigua, which lead to there being insufficient supplies of clean water, and also the unsatisfactory sanitary conditions in the islands generally, bring about a prevalence of enteric fevers and similar ailments, both among children and adults. In Antigua mass inoculation with T.A.B. vaccine in recent years has had good results in reducing these diseases, and work is now being undertaken in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat to improve sanitary conditions. Pellagra and other vitamin deficiency diseases are fairly widespread among both adults and children, especially in poor crop years, and are important causes of deaths. There is a high incidence of venereal diseases (especially syphilis) and of yaws, though vigorous efforts are now being made to counteract these diseases. There is some tuberculosis, and a small number of cases of leprosy occur each year. Malaria exists, but is not widespread, and control measures appear to be having some success ; in 1949, for the first time on record, there were no deaths from malaria, and the number of cases reported was only 179 as compared with 533 in 1946. There are seven hospitals, run by the Medical Department, in the colony—in Antigua, St. Kitts (two), Nevis, Anguilla, Montserrat, and Tortola—with a total of 342 beds. There are leper homes in Antigua and St. Kitts. Ante-natal clinics are held at 19 centres in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, and infant welfare clinics at 38 centres in Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, and Montserrat. Milk, cod-liver oil, and other vitamin-containing foods are provided for necessitous children attending the clinics. Dental clinics are also held on the principal islands, and treatment is given to school children.

Housing

Much of the housing in the Colony is extremely unsatisfactory. In Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat older houses were built of stone or to some extent of brick, but for the last hundred years timber, which gives better protection against earthquakes, has been the principal material used. Roofs are either of shingles or corrugated

Digitized by Google

iron. More recently some use has been made of concrete construction. In Barbuda, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands, housing is mainly of timber, but conditions are generally better than in the other islands ; in none of them, however, is there sufficient use of wood preservatives and damage by termites is severe.

In a survey made in St. Kitts in 1946, covering 1,824 houses, occupied by 2,079 families, it was found that 204 of them were unfit for habitation and incapable of being made fit, while 1,049 timber houses were capable of repair. There were 255 houses built partly of stone and partly of timber, which were in good condition. 352 houses were required to replace those which were unfit and to alleviate overcrowding, on the standard of 18 sq. ft. per person per house. 1,005 houses were overcrowded. Only two per cent. of the houses had individual sanitary arrangements ; sanitary conditions throughout the islands are very unsatisfactory, though steps are being taken to improve them.

Information regarding housing and overcrowding was obtained in the 1946 census. In the colony as a whole 23 per cent. of dwellings had only one room, but in Antigua the proportion was as high as 64 per cent., while in St. Kitts it was nearly 50 per cent. Overcrowding was most severe in Antigua, where nearly 25 per cent. of the population was living more than five persons to a room, and nearly 67 per cent. more than two persons to a room. In the other Presidencies the proportion at more than five persons to a room was 11–12 per cent., and at more than two persons to a room 55–60 per cent., while for the colony as a whole the proportions were 16 per cent. and 60 per cent., respectively.

Legislation setting up a central Housing Authority, with powers to acquire land and buildings, and arrange for or carry out schemes for slum clearance and the provision of working-class houses, was passed in Antigua and St. Kitts in 1948. In these Presidencies the Central Housing Authority has also been given powers for urban and rural planning. There are small housing schemes in most of the islands, and a large scheme to replace houses destroyed in the hurricanes of 1950 is being carried out in Antigua. Legislation providing for rent restriction is in operation in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

Social Security

There is no comprehensive system of social security through insurance or otherwise in any of the islands, but relief is given from public funds to aged and destitute persons. In most of the islands assistance is administered through Boards ; individual payments are small—about 1s. to 3s. per week as a rule. Each of the islands also has a home for aged and infirm persons, which receives support from Government funds.

There are Government savings banks in all the Presidencies, and in St. Kitts and Nevis there are also savings unions which are under official supervision.

Political Structure

The Colony of the Leeward Islands is a federation of four Presidencies namely, Antigua (with Barbuda), St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla—commonly referred to as St. Kitts—Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands. The Leeward Islands Act of 1871 established a federation and provided for a Federal Executive Council and a General Legislative Council. Under amendments now coming into effect the General Legislative Council is to consist of eight official, two nominated unofficial, and 13 unofficial members elected by the unofficial members of Presidential Legislative Councils (five each from Antigua and St. Kitts, two from Montserrat, and one from the British Virgin Islands). The Executive Council is to consist of seven official, one nominated, and six unofficial members elected by the unofficial members of the General Legislative Council.

The Executive Council is advisory. Federal legislation is introduced into the General Legislative Council, whose assent is normally necessary before it becomes law. The respective legislative powers of the General and Presidential Legislative Councils are laid down in the Leeward Islands Act ; briefly a small number of subjects, including police and education, are reserved for Federal legislation while the Federal and Presidential Legislatures have concurrent powers over other subjects, though these are in practice normally the subject of Presidential legislation.

The Legislative Council in Antigua consists of the Administrator as President, two official, three nominated unofficial, and eight members elected by adult suffrage. The unofficial members elect three members from the Legislative Council to the Executive Council, which has in addition four official and one nominated unofficial members. It is proposed that the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla constitution shall be similarly revised to provide for an elected unofficial majority on the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council in Montserrat consists of the Commissioner as President, two official, two nominated unofficial and five members elected by adult suffrage. The unofficial members elect two members to the Executive Council, which has in addition three official and one nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands, which was revived in 1950 after 48 years, consists of three official, two nominated unofficial, and four elected members. The Executive Council consists of the official and nominated unofficial members.

There is no system of local government. The city of St. John's, Antigua, is administered by City Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and it is financed from the Presidential budget.

The Federal departments are Audit, Education, Legal, Police and Printing. Presidential departments are :—

Antigua and St. Kitts : Agriculture, Income Tax, Labour, Legal, Medical, Post Office, Prison, Public Works and Treasury and Customs.

Montserrat : Agriculture, Medical, Post Office, Public Works, Treasury.

Virgin Islands : Agriculture, Medical, Public Works.

The Virgin Islands Committee, on which both the British and American Virgin Islands are represented, was recently established to consider questions of common interest arising from the close economic relations between the islands.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

Some economic legislation is on a federal basis, but in other cases it is based on Ordinances passed in each Presidency, which may or may not correspond with each other. Company legislation and legislation relating to trade unions and workers' protection, and immigration, is federal, as is the legislation covering stamp duties and inheritance taxes, but there is separate, though similar, legislation regarding income tax in each Presidency, while other taxation and customs tariffs vary from Presidency to Presidency.

Company legislation is generally similar to that in the United Kingdom, but does not incorporate the more recent changes, as the principal ordinance was passed in 1885. There is no restriction on the formation of limited liability companies in the colony, except that aliens may only engage in banking, or become the directors of companies, or hold shares or debentures in them, with the permission of the Governor. In Antigua and Montserrat certain concessions in regard to income tax and customs duties are given to pioneer industries, under ordinances passed in 1950 and 1951 respectively, and in St. Kitts concessions of the same sort are given for the building of hotels or extensions to hotels, under an ordinance passed in 1949.

Digitized by Google

Trade Tariffs

There are import duties on most commodities. Though their rates vary in the different Presidencies, they fall broadly into the following categories :—

Foodstuffs. There are low specific duties—the preferential rate on imports of Commonwealth origin being usually at two-thirds the general rate—on dried, salted or tinned fish, pickled, salted or canned beef and pork, lard and lard substitutes, grain, flour and meal, sugar, condensed milk (imports of Commonwealth origin are free of duty in St. Kitts), dried, canned or preserved vegetables and potatoes (other than sweet potatoes), onions, and garlic; other fresh vegetables and fresh meat and fish are free of duty.

Clothing, Cotton Manufactures. Ad valorem duties ranging in the different Presidencies from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. at the full rate, and 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. at the preferential rate.

Manufactures. On most manufactured goods the rates of duty are 15 per cent. full, 10 per cent. preferential, *ad valorem.* On motor vehicles and parts the full rates are 28 to 30 per cent. and preferential rates 8 to 10 per cent., and on machinery the full and preferential rates are respectively 15 and 10 per cent. in Antigua, and 7½ and 5 per cent. in St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands; in Montserrat the full rate is 5 per cent. and imports from Commonwealth sources are free of duty.

Fuel and Lubricating Oils. Low specific or *ad valorem* duties, except on motor spirit, on which the general and preferential rates of duty per gallon are respectively 1s. 1d. and 10d. in Antigua, 6d. (both) in St. Kitts, 1s. and 8d. in Montserrat, and 3d. and 2d. in the Virgin Islands.

Coal and Coke. 2s. 6d. per ton (general) and 1s. 8d. per ton (preferential), except in the Virgin Islands, where the rates are 3s. 9d. and 2s. 6d. respectively.

Wood and Timber. Low specific or *ad valorem* rates of duty.

Cement. Low specific duties; imports from Commonwealth sources are free of duty in Montserrat.

Soap. Low specific duties on common soap; moderate *ad valorem* duties on fancy soap.

Oilseeds. Low specific duties, except in Montserrat, where imports are free of duty.

Medicines. Ad valorem duties of 12 to 15 per cent. full rate and 8 to 10 per cent. preferential rate.

Spirits. High specific duties.

Tobacco and Cigarettes. Fairly high specific duties in Antigua and St. Kitts, and on cigarettes in Montserrat; low specific duties in the Virgin Islands, and on tobacco in Montserrat.

As well as these import duties, surcharges, consisting of a proportion of the customs duty, are levied. In Antigua the surcharge is 10 per cent. on fish, grains, lard and lard substitutes, meats, oils, vegetables, wines and spirits, and 30 per cent. on all other articles; in St. Kitts it is 20 per cent. on spirits, and 12½ per cent. on all other articles; in Montserrat it is 10 per cent. on dried and salted fish, wheat and maize flour, spirits (except rum) and wines (except still wines and vermouth), and 25 per cent. on all other goods, except motor spirit, sugar, rum, and still wines and vermouth, which are free of duty; in the Virgin Islands it is 43 per cent. on the amount of specific duties, and 2 per cent. on the amount of *ad valorem* duties. There are as well a small package tax on goods entering Antigua, small taxes on parcels entering Antigua and Montserrat, and a trade tax of ½ per cent. in Antigua on goods taken out of bond for consumption. *Ad valorem* duties are levied on the f.o.b. values of goods in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and the Virgin Islands, and on the c.i.f. value in Montserrat.

Export duties are levied as follows :—

Antigua. Cotton lint, 3 cents per lb.; sugar, 25s. per ton.

Montserrat. Mules, 12s. each, horses and cattle, 10s. each; smaller duties on other livestock. Clean lint cotton, 3 cents per lb., clean seed cotton, ½d. per lb., stained seed cotton, ¼d. per lb. Citrate of lime, 1s. per cwt.; bay oil, 2s. per gallon. Also small duties on bay leaves, cotton seed oil, cocoa, coffee, hides, limes (pickled), onions, tomatoes, peas and beans, starches (arrowroot, cassava, etc.), and certain other products.

St. Kitts-Nevis. Clean lint cotton, grown in St. Kitts, 1½d. per lb., grown in Nevis, ½d. per lb., crystal sugar, 25s. 4d. per ton, coarse salt, 17s. 6d. per ton, fine salt, 1s. per barrel of 300 lb., rising by 1d. per barrel for each 1s. increase in price over 15s. per barrel.

Virgin Islands. Cattle, 8s. per head, horses and mules, 6s. per head; smaller duties on other livestock. Sea Island cotton, 1d.–2d. per lb., and native cotton, ½d.–1½d. per lb. according to the price of cotton rates. There are also small duties on charcoal, building lime, sweet potatoes, yams, bananas, eggs, hides, and hardwoods.

There are excise duties on sugar, rum, and tobacco and cigarettes in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, on rum in Montserrat, and on sugar in the Virgin Islands.

As in other Caribbean territories, since 1948 dollar imports have been kept to a minimum, and imports from hard currency sources have been restricted to goods unobtainable elsewhere and essential for maintenance and expansion of capital equipment or for keeping up a reasonable standard of consumption.

Labour

Under similar Ordinances passed in 1950 in all four Presidencies, the Governor has powers to appoint Labour Commissioners, whose duties are to safeguard and promote the general welfare of workers in their Presidencies, to supervise and review conditions of work, visit and inspect places of employment, obtain information regarding wages, hours, and working conditions, and assist in the settlement of disputes. Commissioners have been appointed in Antigua and St. Kitts, and the Federal Department of Labour which had existed previously has been replaced by separate departments in these Presidencies. Other labour legislation is on a federal basis.

There is no system of employment exchanges in any of the Presidencies. Trade unions must be registered, and their accounts audited; persons aged 16 to 21 years may be trade union members, but must not hold any official position. Peaceful picketing by union members is permitted, and the general principle applies that acts which are legal if done singly are legal when done in combination. Expenditure on political objects which is approved by the majority of the members is permitted; provision is made for contracting out of such expenditure by individuals. Workmen's compensation does not cover persons with an annual income of over £200, casual workers, outworkers, domestic workers, clerical workers, shop assistants, or members of the employer's family, but it does cover workers in agriculture; in the case of the death of the employee the payment is 30 months' wages or £350, whichever is less, when there are dependants; if there are no dependants, a lesser sum may be paid. In the case of permanent total disablement, 42 months' wages or £350, whichever is less, are payable for an adult, and 54 months' wages or £350, whichever is less, for a minor; in the case of partial or temporary disablement, correspondingly less is paid. These provisions do not apply in the case of accidents caused by wilful disobedience on the part of the employee, or by the use of drink or drugs.

Children under 12 may do only domestic work or light agricultural work at the homes of their parents or guardians, and children between 12 and 14 may not be employed in any public or private industrial establishment or ship, except a family concern. Women, and young persons

Digitized by Google

between 14 and 18 years of age may not be employed at night, except in family undertakings, and between 16 and 18 years of age on processes which must be carried on continuously (e.g., the manufacture of raw sugar, or in other cases permitted by the Governor-in-Council).

A Factories Ordinance, giving powers for the appointment of factory inspectors and the bringing into operation of measures to ensure health and safety in factories, was passed in 1948, but has not yet been brought into force.

The Governor has powers to appoint one or more arbitrators in connection with trade disputes, with the consent of the parties; the Governor may also appoint a Board of Inquiry to report on the causes of disputes or on any matter connected with economic or industrial conditions, or, on the advice of the Executive Council of any Presidency, may appoint an Advisory Committee, including representatives of employers and employees, and other persons, to consider conditions of employment in any occupation and to make recommendations regarding the minimum wages to be paid. On consideration of these recommendations, the Governor may, with the advice of the Executive Council of the Presidency concerned, make orders prescribing minimum wages; these orders must be placed before the Legislative Council of the Presidency, which may annul them.

Land and Minerals

Aliens are not permitted to hold more than five acres of land. In Antigua, under an Ordinance passed in 1949, all minerals (including metals, precious metals and stones, coal and mineral oils) are vested in and subject to the control of the Crown. Mining may only be carried out under a licence given by the Governor-in-Council, and, on private land, only with the consent of the owner or occupier of the land; for 25 years the owner receives five per cent. of the amount of the royalties payable to the Government. In Montserrat, licences to explore for minerals or mineral oil on Crown land are granted by the Governor; a royalty of 15 per cent. on the value of precious stones discovered is payable. Prospecting licences, which do not give the right to mine or quarry, and mining leases for not more than 30 years, covering areas of not more than 1,000 acres, are also granted; in the case of the latter, royalties are to be paid on any products obtained. Under legislation passed in all the Presidencies in 1948 it is necessary to obtain a licence to prospect for or mine any radio-active mineral, and such minerals may only be exported with the permission of the Governor.

Immigration

Under the Immigration Ordinance of 1945, the Governor has the right to prohibit the entry of any alien or class of aliens (persons not born in or normally resident in the Colony, or not British subjects). Persons likely to become a charge on public funds, suffering from infectious diseases, or regarded as undesirable, are normally refused entry. Persons entering the colony must have passports, and in the case of aliens, visas.

Transport and Communications

In *Antigua* there are about 80 miles of primary roads, and 65 miles of secondary roads, which are capable of carrying wheeled traffic. All parts of the island are readily accessible, but the road system is beyond the capacity of the island to maintain, and the periodic heavy rains and droughts are very unfavourable for road surfaces. There is a network of narrow gauge railways, altogether 50 miles in length, for the transport of sugar cane from the estates to the factory, and for transporting sugar to St. John's for shipment.

There is a telephone system with three exchanges, serving St. John's and the surrounding area, but its capacity is insufficient for needs.

In *St. Kitts* and *Nevis* there are respectively 30 and 20 miles of main roads, of which 20 and 9 miles had been given a colas surface in 1950. There are about 30 miles of earth and stone roads in Anguilla. In St. Kitts, there is as well a narrow gauge sugar cane railway, altogether 34½ miles in length, which encircles the island. There are telephone systems on St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, but as in Antigua, they are inadequate. There is a Government-operated wireless telephone service between St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla.

In *Montserrat* there are 38 miles of maintained roads, 20 of which (together with all the Plymouth streets) have a colas surface, and about 30 miles of bridle roads; unsurfaced roads often become impassable. There is a telephone system operated by the Government, with one exchange and 70 subscribers.

In the *Virgin Islands* there are five miles of motorable road, and 50 miles of bridle paths and tracks. There is no telegraph or telephone system, or communication by cable or radio.

In Antigua, Coolidge Field, which was the base of the United States Air Force until 1949, is operated by the Administration as a civilian airport. There is also an airfield in St. Kitts with a runway 4,100 feet long and 150 feet wide. In 1950 air services were operated three times weekly by Pan-American World Airways to and from Puerto Rico and Trinidad, calling at Antigua, and by British West Indian Airways two or three times weekly between Antigua and St. Kitts; there were also services to and from other West Indian islands calling at Antigua.

There is a regular service by two diesel launches based on Montserrat between Montserrat, Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis, and voyages are also made to Dominica and Barbados. Cargo vessels of the Harrison line call approximately once a month at Antigua and St. Kitts to discharge cargo and load sugar and cotton for the United Kingdom, and during the latter part of the year calls are made at Montserrat to load cotton. Regular calls are made at Antigua, St. Kitts, and Montserrat northbound and southbound by Canadian National Steamships and by the Alcoa Steamship Company, from Canada and New York, at Antigua and St. Kitts. There is, however, no passenger service to the United Kingdom, and cargo services are not adequate, especially in the case of Montserrat, from which exports of fruit and vegetables are hampered by lack of shipping facilities. There are harbours at St. John's in Antigua, Basseterre in St. Kitts, Charlestown in Nevis, and Plymouth in Montserrat, but vessels of any size cannot come near the shore, and loading and unloading must be done by means of barges and lighters. In the Virgin Islands, there is a port of entry at Road Town and two others for limited purposes at West End, Tortola, and Jost van Dykes.

There are postal services throughout the islands. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintain stations in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat, and operate radio-telephone services to the principal islands in the British West Indies, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

There is no broadcasting station in the Colony.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Antigua

Agricultural conditions in Antigua are difficult, on account of the comparatively low and variable rainfall, and the poor quality of much of the soil. The supply of water is small and uncertain; there is only one permanent stream and few springs, and there are no arrangements for irrigation, though in wet periods considerable areas of low-lying land become flooded or waterlogged. Soil types vary from heavy clays of poor natural drainage to light calcareous soils of fair to good natural drainage.

Of the total area of 69,000 acres only 36,000 or 52 per cent. are said to be cultivable, and the actual acreage under cultivation at any time is likely to be less than half this. The greater part of the island consists of pasturage, largely on thin soils in the less fertile areas, and areas such as hill tops and rough mountain land, which are unsuitable for cultivation. Sugar—and to a less extent cotton—are

Digitized by Google

the only crops which can be relied on regularly to give a reasonable return per acre, and these are the island's chief products. Sugar and its by-products—molasses and rum—normally provide about 90 per cent. of Antigua's exports.

The main producer of sugar is Syndicate Estates Limited, an amalgamation of properties which was established in 1943. At the time that the Soulbury Commission reported on the sugar industry of the island, in 1949, Syndicate Estates Limited owned 17,719 acres of land, of which 9,055 acres was arable land ; most of the land was farmed directly by the Syndicate on the estate system—a number of estates being grouped under a single manager—but it also rented approximately 1,270 acres to about 850 peasants, 57 per cent. of whom had holdings of from one to five acres, and 42 per cent. holdings of one acre or less. There were also 2,522 acres of private estates worked entirely by their owners, 2,248 acres in private estates worked partly by their owners and partly rented to peasants, 6,585 acres rented entirely to peasants, and 12,055 acres in land settlements owned by the Government and rented to peasants ; more than a third of the area of these settlements was, however, non-arable. There were about 2,200 settlers on Government estates. The total area devoted to the growing of sugar cane was about 13,000 acres in 1947.

Estate cultivation, therefore, predominates ; it is responsible for about three-quarters of the island's sugar output, and in the difficult conditions which prevail the estates alone have the necessary capital resources for efficient agriculture. Mechanical methods of cultivation, which are already in use to a considerable extent, are being extended, and the mechanisation of haulage is being introduced. Artificial manures are extensively used, though supplies of them have tended to be inadequate, and the application of the results of scientific investigation, together with the increased efficiency brought about by the formation of the Syndicate, have greatly improved crop strains and yields. Mechanical equipment is made available to peasant farms and land settlements by the Syndicate, which will make advances to peasants and prepare their land for cultivation at small cost, and will as well organise reaping and arrange the transport of the crop. Settlers on the Government estates also receive loans for tractor ploughing. Artificial manures are being increasingly used on peasant holdings, but on the whole their standards of cultivation are not high, and their yields are lower than those prevailing on the estates, though this may in part be due to the estate lands generally being better.

The area on which cotton is grown varies from year to year, from as little as 1,000 acres to as much as 5,000 acres ; in 1949 it was approximately 3,500 acres. Cotton is suitable for light soils which are too dry for sugar. The Sea Island variety is cultivated, mainly by peasants, though there are some areas on estates.

About 1,000 acres are devoted to food crops. At the time of the 1946 Agricultural Census there were 6,215 cattle, 1,382 horses and mules, 2,991 donkeys, 2,698 pigs, 3,100 sheep, and 5,902 goats and 28,614 head of poultry in Antigua (excluding Barbuda). Owing to dry conditions and poor pasturage the condition of most of the livestock is not good, and bovine tuberculosis is fairly prevalent.

As a result of the prevailing methods of agriculture, soil erosion is not a very serious problem, since shifting cultivation by peasants is not widespread. Contour furrowing is carried out on sloping lands on both estates and peasant holdings, and the clearing of steep hillsides and of forest areas without permission is prohibited. The greater part of Crown land on the island has been alienated, and except for the land settlement areas, there is little productive land now in Government hands. Over the island as a whole, however, there is a considerable area of badly-cultivated or under-cultivated land, and of indifferent pasture, which could be made, with additional labour and equipment, to carry more stock.

Barbuda

Barbuda is entirely Crown land, and consists mostly of bush with areas of rough pasture. The inhabitants live in Coddrington village (population approximately 1,000) on the shores of the lagoon, and practise shifting cultivation. Foodstuffs and Sea Island cotton are grown, but the main activity is the keeping of livestock. At the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946 there were 209 cattle, 150 horses and mules, 389 donkeys, four pigs, 113 sheep, 338 goats, and 1,128 head of poultry. Of the total area of 37,000 acres, less than 1,000 acres are cultivated.

St. Kitts

General agricultural conditions in St. Kitts are considerably easier than those in Antigua. In the words of the Soulbury Commission, the island's soils are " deep, easily worked, light, sandy loams, with free natural drainage. They are somewhat lacking in mineral salts, but their good drainage and the ease with which they can be worked render them admirably suited to the growing of sugar cane " ; and the rainfall is higher, and the water supplies more adequate, than in Antigua.

The total area of the island is about 42,000 acres ; of this about 18,000 acres are arable, and more than half the remainder—between 13,000 and 16,000 acres—is under forest. As in Antigua, sugar is the main crop, and together with its by-products molasses and rum, provides about 90 per cent. of the Presidency's exports, though some Sea Island cotton is also grown. Sugar and cotton are grown on most of the coastal belt of the island, and food crops on the sloping ground leading to the mountainous interior which is forest-covered. In 1949 almost all the sugar was grown by 47 estates, 11 of which belonged to companies (five of these being locally registered) ; the remaining 36 were owned by about 40 individuals, some of whom had shares in several estates. The estates varied in size from 668 acres down to 32 acres, and their total area was 28,426 acres, of which about 15,060 acres were suitable for cane cultivation ; they also included food-crop land let to peasants, amounting to 3,264 acres, and about 1,900 acres of grassland and pasture. Sugar cane planters are required by law to plant 20 per cent. of their cane land with provisions, the kind of foodstuffs to be planted being determined by the Department of Agriculture. There is little peasant cultivation of sugar, though the Government has bought three estates, with a total area of 971 acres, which have been let to peasants, the average size of holding being three acres. The Department of Agriculture supplies artificial manure, planting material, tools, and livestock, on credit, and organises the harvesting and transport of cane ; settlers are allowed to plant half cane and half vegetables. The amount of cotton grown is comparatively small ; in 1949 it was approximately 1,170 acres.

The standards of cultivation on the estates are fairly high ; artificial manures are widely used, and contour ploughing is practised generally on sloping lands. Cultivation operations are simpler, and mechanisation less widespread than in Antigua ; better weather and soil conditions have enabled small estates to survive, though many (both companies and individuals) are grouped together for policy and management. Haulage is about 50 per cent. mechanised. With estate cultivation predominating, soil erosion is not a serious problem.

At the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946, there were 8,072 cattle, 1,344 horses and mules, 2,714 donkeys, 6,828 pigs, 10,532 sheep, 7,632 goats, and 24,116 head of poultry, in the island.

Nevis

The soils of Nevis are heavier than those of St. Kitts, and are extremely stony, and the rainfall is slightly less. The total area of the island is about 32,000 acres, of which it is estimated that approximately 23,000 acres are cultivable, 7,000 acres are cultivated and 5,000 acres are forest. Although there are about 80 estates with a total area of approximately 15,000 acres, none of them is worked on plantation lines, and some have been abandoned and are used only for rough grazing ; for the most part their land is either rented to tenants on a cash basis or worked on the sharecropping system. Thus practically all agricultural production is by small holders, a fair proportion of whom own their land ; the average size of holdings is about

Digitized by Google

three acres. There are also two Government-owned estates, which are let in holdings, the average size of which is three acres.

The most important crops are cotton, of which from 1,500 to 3,000 acres are usually grown, and sugar cane, the area of which is from 1,000–1,600 acres. Ground provisions and vegetables (mainly tomatoes for export) are also grown. A small amount of sun-dried copra is made on two estates, which are worked with paid labour.

Under the sharecropping system there is no security of tenure; small plots of about an acre are worked year by year, sometimes two or more plots by the same person. The sharecropper must plant the crop required by the landlord ; this crop is generally cotton, and is divided equally between the two parties, each marketing their share themselves. The cropper is entirely responsible for preparing the land and for planting, cultivating and harvesting. Some landlords offer sharecroppers special facilities for obtaining animal manure, but generally speaking manuring is not adequate and soil fertility has been reduced to a low level ; the sharecropper tends to take no responsibility for the maintenance of fertility, and is unwilling to incur expenditure which benefits the landlord when he resumes ownership of the plot. In the case of land which is rented on a cash basis, on outlying plots on the edge of estates the tenant is usually allowed to plant whatever crops he prefers, but when an entire estate is let as small holdings the tenants are generally required to concentrate on a single cash crop. Tenancies, like sharecropping arrangements, are as a rule on a year-to-year basis, and neither the landlord nor the tenant is much concerned with the maintenance of fertility or the prevention of soil erosion, though in Nevis the latter is not a very serious problem because the land is not very steep, the soils are relatively non-erodible, and a fair amount of sugar cane is grown. Nevertheless, the inadequate financial returns which have stopped the estate owners from being planters on their own account also prevent them from being good landlords. The stony character of the soil is a hindrance to the use of mechanical cultivation.

At the time of the 1946 Agricultural Census there were 2,646 cattle, 565 horses and mules, 1,264 donkeys, 2,333 pigs, 4,321 sheep, 2,876 goats, and 13,814 head of poultry on the island. The health conditions of livestock are reasonably good.

Anguilla

The soil of Anguilla is very shallow and rocky and much of it is hardly capable of any kind of cultivation, but there are pockets of land with fair soil on which crops are grown, mainly food crops, though there is a small amount of cotton (from 30 to 100 acres in recent years). The total area of the island is about 22,000 acres, of which about 2,000 acres are cultivated land ; there are no forests. There are two estates, with a total area of 3,100 acres, but cultivation is mainly in the hands of smallholders ; two Government estates have been sub-divided and sold to tenants. The area owned by peasants is about 4,000 acres.

At the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946 there were 1,125 cattle, 19 horses and mules, 142 donkeys, 1,221 pigs, 3,491 sheep, 2,269 goats, and 6,470 head of poultry on the island.

Montserrat

The island is of volcanic origin, and there is little or no level land. Of the total area of about 21,000 acres, approximately 5,000 acres of fertile soil round the coast, up to a height of about 800 feet, are used mainly for growing cotton ; a further 6,000 acres of less fertile land are used for the cultivation of sugar cane or food crops such as maize or sweet potatoes, or as rough pasture. About 5,000 acres are under forest ; this area includes most of the mountain land more than 1,500 feet above sea level, and also some forest at lower altitudes. The rest of the island consists of scrub, ravines, etc., and is mainly unsuitable for agriculture.

Cotton is the main cash crop ; about 3,500 acres are reaped annually. (Land used for cotton growing normally lies fallow one year in four.) Limes and sugar are also grown ; lime cultivations are rather scattered, and it is difficult to ascertain their total acreage. The area devoted to sugar cane is fairly small ; about 120 acres were reaped in 1950. Some tomatoes have been grown for export to Canada in recent years, but particulars as to acreage are not available.

The distribution of land holdings is broadly as follows :—

LAND HOLDINGS IN MONSERRAT

	Cultivated land	*Uncultivated land (including forest below 1,500 feet)*	*Forest above 1,500 feet*	*Total*
	acres	acres	acres	acres
Companies or individuals in England ..	1,700	3,000	1,200	5,900
Inhabitants of Montserrat	4,200	4,000	1,000	9,200
Otway Peasant Land Settlement (owned by Government)	500	500	200	1,200
	6,400	7,500	2,400	16,300

As in Nevis, the sharecropping system is widespread, especially for cotton cultivation ; in recent years 20 to 25 per cent. of the cotton acreage has been cultivated under this system. The working of the system is generally similar in Nevis and Montserrat, except that in Montserrat the landlord undertakes the sun-drying, cleaning, sorting, ginning, baling, and marketing of the cotton. The sharecropper usually receives one-eighth of the net proceeds per lb. of lint for each lb. of seed cotton he has delivered to the landowner, who retains the seed. From 40 to 50 per cent. of the cotton acreage is farmed by peasants on freehold or rented land, and about 30 per cent. is on estates. Limes are both an estate and a peasant crop ; the rest of the cultivation is in peasant hands.

On the Otway Land Settlement scheme, which was established in 1944, there are 280 peasant holdings, on which cotton is grown. The Agricultural Department exercises close control over these holdings in order to improve cultivation methods and prevent soil erosion, which is a very serious problem throughout the island, owing to the steepness of many of the slopes. Since 1938 the Agricultural Department has assisted or carried out anti-erosion measures on about 1,500 acres in many parts of the island, but there still appears to be only a limited appreciation of the need for anti-erosion work. As in Nevis, the sharecropping system leads to lack of interest in the conservation and fertility of the land. The amount of artificial manure used is small, and standards of cultivation are generally not high. Two estates have herds of working oxen which are used for ploughing, but most cultivation is done by hand.

At the time of the 1946 Agricultural Census there were 2,140 cattle, 159 horses and mules, 902 donkeys, 2,018 pigs, 1,279 sheep, 3,902 goats, and 13,793 head of poultry on the island.

Virgin Islands

Little cultivation—apart from fodder grasses—takes place in the Virgin Islands ; the main agricultural activity is stock-raising. Much of the land is too steep or too infertile to cultivate and is usually left with a secondary forest cover of scrub bush. The total area of the islands is estimated at about 37,000 acres ; there are approximately 3,200 acres of arable land, 3,800 acres used for tree-crops,

Digitized by Google

vines, etc., 5,000 acres of permanent pasture, and 2,600 acres of forest. Some areas in the north-west of Tortola, where the rainfall is higher than elsewhere, are used for market gardening. In 1950 about 90 acres of sugar cane —used for rum-making—110 acres of coconuts, and 500 acres of food crops—sweet potatoes, yams, maize, etc.— were grown. Shifting cultivation is employed for the growing of food crops.

There are no estates, and the greater part of the population consists of independent peasants. Most of the land is held freehold, but some is rented on a yearly tenancy. The average size of holding is about 18 acres. Cultivation methods are primitive ; there is no agricultural machinery of any kind, but a fair amount of attention is given to methods of soil conservation, and many of the peasants practise terracing on steep slopes. Artificial manures are not used, though organic manure is made use of to some extent.

At the time of the 1946 Agricultural Census there were 4,560 cattle, 535 horses and mules, 190 donkeys, 668 pigs, 710 sheep, 3,034 goats, and 8,598 head of poultry in the island ; the numbers of stock have risen considerably since then. There is a fairly large export trade in livestock, the condition of which is reasonably good.

Local Food Products

The economies of the islands are predominantly on a cash basis, and the amount of foodstuffs grown for local consumption is relatively not large. The two main sugar-producing islands, Antigua and St. Kitts, are particularly dependent on one crop, though in each of them foodstuffs are grown on upwards of 1,000 acres. In the other islands the proportion of cultivation for home consumption is probably rather higher, but for the the colony as a whole about 95 per cent. of the cereals consumed are imported, about one-third of the meat, and one-quarter of the fish.

The main food crops grown are sweet potatoes, maize, yams, beans, pigeon peas, lime beans, eddoes, onions, Guinea corn, bananas, tomatoes, green vegetables, carrots, and groundnuts.

In a study of nutrition conditions in the colony made in 1944 average consumption was put at 2,300 calories daily per head. There is a certain amount of under-nutrition, especially of children and old people, and diets have a high carbohydrate content and an insufficiency of proteins, fats and minerals, especially where meat and fish supplies are difficult to obtain. Generally speaking nutrition is least good in the islands where there is most dependence on cash crops, and best where crops are grown for local consumption and meat and fish are available. Deficiency diseases tend to appear in times of drought and economic depression.

Nutrition standards would therefore be benefited by an increase in mixed farming. The Commissions under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury, which reported on the sugar industry in Antigua and St. Kitts in 1949, recommended an increased production of food crops, though not at the expense of the output of sugar cane.

Cash Crops

Sugar

In Antigua there are two sugar factories. The larger, the Antigua Sugar Factory Limited, is controlled in the United Kingdom, but Antigua Syndicate Estates Limited has a substantial minority shareholding, and the factory shareholders have substantial holdings in the Syndicate Estates company. The two organisations are, however, independent and neither has any control over the other, though there is co-operation between them. The Antigua Sugar Factory mills and processes the cane grown by all the estates except Montpelier, by peasants renting land on these estates, and by all but one of the Government land settlements. The largest amount comes from the Syndicate Estates, which in 1947 supplied 62 per cent. of the total ; about 25 per cent. is supplied by peasant growers, and the remainder by other estates. The factory operates a profit-sharing scheme with cane growers ; a bonus on profits is paid, the amount of which is greater to growers who make contracts and deliver their cane in an organised manner. The factory owns and operates about 50 miles of light railway for the transport of cane from the field. As in other colonies, there is a tendency for field workers to be absent during the harvesting season at the weekend, when deliveries tend to fall to about two-thirds of the level reached at the middle of the week. The Antigua Sugar Factory was established in 1905, and was one of the earliest central factories in the British West Indies, but it has been equipped with modern machinery and may now be regarded as efficient and up-to-date. Its grinding capacity is 65 tons per hour.

The Antigua Distillery Limited, which up to 1943 had only engaged in rum manufacture, in that year purchased the Montpelier estate and other properties, including a muscovado sugar factory. This factory has been rebuilt with modern machinery ; it has a grinding rate of 12 tons per hour, and is considered capable of manufacturing 1,000 tons of sugar in a crop season of six months, though it has so far only made use of a proportion of its capacity. Insufficient water supplies have handicapped its operation and reduced its supplies of cane, and in 1948 production had to be suspended altogether for this reason. It receives cane from the Montpelier Estate and peasants who rent land on it, and from the nearby Government land settlement scheme. The Company has extended cultivation on the Montpelier Estate and has improved cultivation methods.

Deliveries of cane to the two factories and output of sugar from them during the period 1938–49 have been as follows :—

ANTIGUA SUGAR FACTORIES—CANE DELIVERIES AND OUTPUT OF SUGAR

	Antigua Sugar Factory		*Montpelier Sugar Factory*	
Year	*Cane delivered tons*	*Sugar produced tons*	*Cane delivered tons*	*Sugar produced tons*
1938	133,344	18,921	n.a.	—
1939	139,429	19,226	n.a.	101
1940	121,066	14,113	n.a.	—
1941	144,691	17,584	n.a.	166
1942	191,393	21,979	n.a.	193
1943	170,326	21,867	n.a.	208
1944	121,488	16,280	2,675	125
1945	147,697	20,663	2,043	72
1946	196,932	26,023	7,526	122
1947	178,129	22,736	4,830	100
1948	101,275	12,174	—	—
1949	154,046	18,263	n.a.	75
1950	246,811	30,681	n.a.	422

The yield of cane per acre in the island is closely dependent on the rainfall, and calculations (published in the Soulbury Commission's report) relating to the Syndicate Estates show that the figures of yields per acre (of both sugar and cane) per inch of rainfall have been approximately constant over long periods, though from the decade 1924–33 to the decade 1938–47 they rose by approximately 30 per cent. in the case of sugar and 25 per cent. in the case of cane, indicating the effect of improved methods of cultivation and improved strains over that period. Between individual years there may be great variations ; for example, on the Syndicate estates the yield was 18·0 tons of cane per reaped acre in 1944 and 25·2 tons in 1946.

The St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory mills and processes all the cane grown in St. Kitts and also some of the cane grown in Nevis. Half the shares in the factory are owned by the estates in St. Kitts which supply cane to it, and they receive a similar share of the profits, a proportion of which is distributed to their workers. The factory is modern and is well known for its high standard of efficiency ; it operates a railway system for the collection of cane which serves all the estates. Cane from Nevis is transhipped in lighters. As in Antigua, the output of cane tends to vary with the rainfall, though lack of water is not such a serious limiting factor.

Digitized by Google

Deliveries of cane to the factory (including cane from Nevis) and output of sugar during the period 1938–50 have been as follows :—

ST. KITTS (BASSETERRE) SUGAR FACTORY—CANE DELIVERIES AND OUTPUT OF SUGAR

Year	Cane delivered	Sugar produced	Year	Cane delivered	Sugar produced
	tons	tons		tons	tons
1938	202,995	27,935	1945	225,486	28,543
1939	269,527	37,336	1946	268,194	33,513
1940	263,821	30,892	1947	286,231	34,357
1941	294,568	37,187	1948	267,132	31,393
1942	276,938	33,061	1949	298,704	35,667
1943	265,338	32,162	1950	346,479	39,786
1944	211,373	27,622			

Of the cane grown in Nevis, some is sent to the St. Kitts Sugar Factory, and the remainder is used locally by small factories for the manufacture of muscovado sugar. During the period 1938–50, cane deliveries and local sugar production have been as follows :—

CANE DELIVERED—NEVIS

Year	St. Kitts	Locally	Total	Local sugar production
	tons	tons	tons	tons
1938	2,784	4,000	6,789	n.a.
1939	7,256	2,605	9,861	n.a.
1940	1,601	4,044	5,645	n.a.
1941	4,594	4,187	8,781	n.a.
1942	3,849	900	4,749	n.a.
1943	2,546	750	3,296	n.a.
1944	1,349	600	1,949	n.a.
1945	484	540	1,024	n.a.
1946	1,698	822	2,720	n.a.
1947	6,510	1,544	8,054	120
1948	2,176	2,130	4,306	150
1949	6,544	530	7,074*	30
1950	11,765	850	12,615	56

* An additional 1,900 tons of cane was left unreaped.

The small amounts of sugar cane grown in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands are used for the manufacture of rum.

Yields per acre vary a good deal in the different islands, and according to the kind of cultivation. For instance, over the four years 1944–47 the average yield of cane per reaped acre was 22·1 tons on the Syndicate Estates in Antigua, as compared with 27·1 tons on the St. Kitts Estates and 27·7 tons in Barbados ; on private estates in Antigua it was 17·9 tons, and on land settlements for 1946–47 15·9 tons, while in Nevis, where peasant cultivation is the rule, the yield is generally only about 10 tons. On the estates the plant crop and up to five ratoons may be reaped annually, but peasant cultivators do not usually take more than two ratoons.

Cotton

Sea Island cotton is grown in all the islands, Antigua being the largest producer. The quantities grown in the Virgin Islands have been small, especially in recent years. For some years the entire crop of clean lint has been bought at guaranteed prices by the United Kingdom Raw Cotton Commission ; f.o.b. prices per lb. for the 1951–52 crop were from 110 cents to 104 cents in Antigua and Nevis, and from 134 cents to 128 cents in St. Kitts and Montserrat, according to grade. All the seed cotton is ginned and baled locally ; there are several ginneries operated by individual owners in Antigua, St. Kitts and Montserrat and one Government ginnery in both Nevis and Montserrat.

The production of pedigree seed of the Montserrat Sea Island strain of cotton for the Leeward Islands as a whole is centralised at the Government seed station in Montserrat.

The acreages planted, production of clean lint, and production per acre in the various islands from 1938 to 1950 have been as follows :—

COTTON LINT—PRODUCTION AND YIELD

	St. Kitts			Nevis			Anguilla		
	Acres planted	Production of clean lint	Clean lint yield	Acres planted	Production of clean lint	Clean lint yield	Acres planted	Production of clean lint	Clean lint yield
		(000 lb.)	(lb. per acre)		(000 lb.)	(lb. per acre)		(000 lb.)	(lb. per acre)
1938	1,440	321	223	2,896	362	124	400	23	58
1939	1,300	210	161	2,850	238	84	400	28	70
1940	1,709	437	256	3,000	465	155	300	7	23
1941	1,400	239	171	4,000	518	130	150	18	120
1942	1,530	140	92	4,500	579	129	225	29	129
1943	1,100	169	154	2,573	186	72	200	16	80
1944	342	48	139	2,544	288	113	70	4	62
1945	1,032	226	219	2,680	297	111	70	4	63
1946	860	147	170	1,688	196	116	60	4	67
1947	956	172	180	1,400	82	65	30	2	59
1948	333	47	141	2,000	193	116	60	2	41
1949	1,169	184	157	3,106	181	58	100	4	41
1950	830	107	129	1,414	127	91	60	4	65
1951	690	89	130	2,184	296	136	60	3	55

	Antigua (including Barbuda)			Montserrat		
	Acres planted	Production of clean lint	Clean lint yield	Acres planted	Production of clean lint	Clean lint yield
		(000 lb.)	(lb. per acre)		(000 lb.)	(lb. per acre)
1938	1,600	175	109	4,453	542	122
1939	2,000	242	121	3,541	643	182
1940	2,645	416	157	4,596	952	207
1941	4,826	659	136	5,395	1,129	209
1942	4,197	416	99	4,467	579	130
1943	851	94	110	4,005	612	153
1944	988	125	125	3,074	570	185
1945	1,129	190	168	3,770	514	136
1946	1,113	283	254	2,521	348	138
1947	498	77	155	2,659	253	95
1948	1,544	209	135	3,447	634	184
1949	3,550	874	246	3,825	588	154
1950	3,949	776	197	3,576	359	100
1951	4,065	831	204	3,172	n.a.	n.a.

Digitized by Google

Limes

These are grown almost entirely in Montserrat, where at the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946 there were approximately 41,400 trees, 36,600 of which were bearing. The average annual crop is about 1,200,000 lb. of limes, most of which are exported, nearly all in the form of lime juice, distilled lime oil, and ecuelled lime oil, though there is a small export of green limes.

Exports of limes and lime products from Montserrat have been as follows in recent years :—

LIMES AND LIME PRODUCTS—EXPORTS

Year	*Green Limes*	*Raw Lime Juice*	*Ecuelled Lime Oil*	*Distilled Lime Oil*	*Total as Limes*
	lb.	gallons	lb.	lb.	lb.
1945	540	36,572	593	299	1,039,680
1946	2,880	24,122	601	487	844,740
1947	2,340	55,620	304	114	1,398,780
1948	4,500	25,992	667	144	706,140
1949	4,500	40,078	418	234	1,044,180

There is also a small export of green limes from the Virgin Islands to St. Thomas.

Tomatoes

Montserrat had, before the war, a fair export trade in tomatoes, amounting to about 500 tons per annum to Canada, but it was brought to an end by the lack of refrigerated shipping space during the war years, and was not revived until 1948, in which year 197,422 lb. were exported, of which 65,070 lb. went to Canada ; in 1949 exports increased to 256,637 lb., about two-thirds going to Canada. As shipping is irregular, any substantial increase in this trade depends on the extension of cold storage facilities. Marketing is undertaken by the Government Marketing Department.

Coconuts

There is a small export trade from Nevis ; about 40 tons were sent to Barbados in 1949.

Livestock

There is a steady export trade in livestock from the Virgin Islands, mainly to the American island of St. Thomas. The value of exports has been around $100,000 annually in recent years, though there was some falling-off in 1950, as a result of difficulties in the meat trade in the United States Virgin Islands.

Forestry

The forests do not in any of the islands provide an important source of income.

Antigua

The original forest was destroyed when the island was cleared for cultivation, and there are now few high trees, though the hilltops are covered with small trees, bush and scrub. There are about 40 square miles of woodland. Under the Forestry Ordinance of 1941 forest land may not be cleared, trees cut or felled, or wood or charcoal burnt without permission from the Forestry Board, which is appointed by the Governor, and a considerable degree of protection has thus been provided, as permits for cultivation are only given where there is no danger of erosion, and it is not allowed on steep hillsides.

There is some production of firewood and charcoal ; though small quantities of local mahogany and red cedar are used for furniture-making and boat-building, and white cedar for cart-building, the island is almost entirely dependent on imported timber.

Barbuda

Woodlands, which cover about 20,000 acres, consist almost entirely of evergreen thicket ; no trees reach sizes exploitable for timber, other than posts and small hewn wood, but the woods have considerable potential value for the production of fuelwood and charcoal, of which the present output is small. Lumber is all imported. The woodlands are under the control of the Warden of Barbuda ; the Crown tenants in Coddrington Village are permitted to cultivate gardens, remove wood, and burn charcoal, free of charge.

St. Kitts

Although there are large areas of forest—between 13,000 and 16,000 acres—in the mountains, they are regarded entirely as protective, and cutting has been discouraged, although stands of commercially useful timber do exist. Almost all the forest area is owned by the estates, which have sought to prevent any danger to water supplies and the cultivated lands below the forest area. Under the Forest Ordinance of 1903 (which applies to the Presidency) no land may be cleared for cultivation, or trees felled, except with the permission of the Forestry Board, which is appointed by the Governor. Estate labourers are, however, permitted to take dead wood for fuel. Charcoal is not allowed to be burnt except with permission. St. Kitts secures all its charcoal supplies from Nevis. The island is almost completely dependent on imported lumber.

Nevis

The area of forest land is about 5,000 acres, almost all of which is owned by the estates. Selective felling is carried out in the mountain forests to meet the needs of the estates and neighbouring villages, and in some areas trees have been felled indiscriminately, largely for charcoal burning, which is the chief forest product. Charcoal burning is generally carried out on the same system, the estate owner taking one-third of the charcoal, and the labourer the remainder ; supervision to prevent over-cutting of timber tends to be insufficient. Other forest products include framing timbers and spars for sailing vessels, tanning bark, fence posts and rough timber for estate use and shingles cut from red cedar and sweetwood.

The St. Kitts Forestry Ordinance applies to Nevis, and permits are required for felling for timber or charcoal burning ; crops are not cultivated in forest areas.

Anguilla has no forests.

Montserrat

The forests are mainly on steep mountain sides. They are poor, and have been much damaged by hurricanes, and are consequently not very valuable for timber, though they are essential for the preservation of water supplies and the prevention of erosion. There are few trees of any size ; firewood, and wood for charcoal are obtained, and also some shingles, boards, and rough scantlings for house-building. White mahogany and red cedar are used for furniture, and white cedar for boat timbers. There are considerable timber imports, and also some imports of charcoal.

Under the Forestry Ordinance of 1946 all forest land is protected, and no clearing of land, tree cutting, or kindling of fires may take place without permission of the Forestry Board, which is appointed by the Governor. The Governor-in-Council may declare any land to be a Forest Reserve ; Forest Reserves are to be acquired by the Crown, and tree cutting or the lighting of fires is prohibited in them.

Virgin Islands

The forest areas contain few trees of any size, except on Tortola. The chief product is charcoal, some of which is exported to the American Virgin Islands. There is no forest legislation.

Fisheries

The fisheries of the Leeward Islands are not very productive ; except round Anguilla and the Virgin Islands, where the population is not so great in proportion to the available fish resources, there has been a tendency to overfishing which has reduced the catches to be obtained. There is little fishing for pelagic fish, and catches are mainly made on coral reefs down to 30 fathoms, generally by means of pots, though seines are also used ; in St. Kitts nets are used for balaboo, up to a depth of 100 fathoms. Equipment and boats are simple.

In 1945 Dr. H. H. Brown estimated the number of boats and men engaged in fishing, and the annual production of fish, as follows :—*

* The Fisheries of the Windward and Leeward Islands, p. 21.

Digitized by Google

	Boats	Men	Annual catch
			(000 lb.)
Antigua	216	526	1,435
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	69	285	660
Montserrat ..	360	1,021	1,930
Virgin Islands ..	201	765	615
Total ..	846	2,597	4,640

Fishing is entirely a peasant industry, and is generally combined with agriculture. Except in the Virgin Islands, where there are small exports of fish, catches are used entirely for local consumption. The principal kinds of fish caught are grouper, hamlet, land snapper, black and white angel fish, doctor, chub and parrot fish, mutton fish, green mullet, porgy and corvalli.

Minerals

In the past small quantities of barytes have been mined in Antigua and exported to Trinidad, but there have been no exports since 1947. Salt is evaporated in ponds in St. Kitts and Anguilla, and considerable quantities are exported in visiting trading vessels. Exports amounted to 4,411 tons (value $60,637) in 1948 and 5,164 tons (value $73,709) in 1949.

Manufactures (including domestic industry)

Manufacturing industry in the Leewards consists of the processing of the crops produced in the islands. The outstanding examples are the two large sugar factories in Antigua and St. Kitts which, together with the smaller plant in Antigua and the small factories in Nevis which produce muscovado sugar, constitute the colony's major industry. Rum is distilled by the smaller of the two sugar factories in Antigua, and in Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. For the processing of cotton there are numerous ginneries in the various islands, many of them small and inefficient ; those in Nevis and Montserrat are Government-owned and the Government undertakes the marketing of all the cotton lint produced in these islands and in Antigua. Cotton seed oil is extracted in factories operated by private firms in St. Kitts and Montserrat ; as by-products cattle cake and meal are made in St. Kitts and Montserrat and soap in Montserrat. The Government operates maize drying and milling plants, which manufacture corn meal, in Antigua and St. Kitts, and there are also small Government-operated corn mills in Nevis, Anguilla, and Montserrat. There is a privately-owned cold storage and ice-making plant in Nevis, and a Government plant in Montserrat. The two large sugar factories operate fair-sized mechanical repair shops for railway and other equipment.

Throughout the islands there are minor industries such as boat-building, furniture-making, leather-tanning, and shoe-making ; straw-work (including hat- and basket-making) is carried on as a domestic occupation, as also is the manufacture of some primitive pottery.

Other Economic Activities

The tourist traffic is undeveloped, and hotel accommodation is limited, though hotel building plans on a considerable scale are being carried out in Nevis. There is a large American residential club in Antigua.

The Government Marketing Organisation arranges for the purchase and sale of sugar cane grown on Government land settlement schemes in Antigua, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the cotton grown in Antigua (including Barbuda), Nevis, and Montserrat ; the marketing of corn grown in Nevis (to be ground for home consumption) and tomatoes grown in Montserrat (for export) has also been carried out through the Organisation. Otherwise marketing of export crops is carried out by the sugar factories or by other private firms or dealers.

According to the 1946 census, the number of persons in professional occupations was as follows :—

PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Profession	Antigua	St. Kitts-Nevis	Montserrat	Virgin Islands	Total
Clergymen, nuns ..	34	32	11	4	81
Legal professions ..	6	6	3	1	16
Physicians, surgeons, dentists	10	12	2	1	25
Nurses	79	80	19	9	187
Teachers	272	286	97	42	697
Engineers	23	11	1	—	35
Artists, musicians ..	9	15	2	5	31
Total	433	442	135	62	1,072

Co-operative Movement

There are no co-operative societies in the colony, and where—especially, for example, in St. Kitts—estate cultivation predominates there are no great prospects for co-operation. The Agricultural Departments in the various islands perform some of the main functions of co-operatives, in that they assist peasant cultivators with supplies of fertilizers, marketing, credit, etc.

Employment and Labour Supply

In all the Presidencies except the Virgin Islands, wage-earning employment predominates. The following table shows the numbers of gainfully-occupied persons and of employed wage-earners in the colony as a whole and in each of the Presidencies, at the time of the 1946 census :—

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

Persons over 10 years of age	Gainfully-occupied (including temporarily unemployed)	Employed wage-earners (including learners)	Wage-earners as % of gainfully-occupied
Leeward Islands ..	48,025	33,718	70·2
Antigua	18,605	13,010	69·9
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	20,809	15,671	75·3
Montserrat ..	6,617	4,441	67·1
Virgin Islands ..	1,994	596	29·9

As the following table shows, by far the greater number of employed persons are engaged in agriculture or services (including personal and domestic service), and agriculture predominates, except in the Virgin Islands (where cultivators generally own their own land) :—

EMPLOYMENT—MAIN OCCUPATIONS
LEEWARD ISLANDS

	Males		Females		Total		Antigua		St. Kitts-Nevis		Montserrat		Virgin Islands	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total numbers employed	18,529	100·0	15,189	100·0	33,718	100·0	13,010	100·0	15,761	100·0	4,441	100·0	596	100·0
Agriculture ..	9,158	49·4	8,771	57·8	17,929	53·1	5,872	45·2	9,346	59·6	2,594	58·4	117	19·7
Sugar Planting	6,151	33·2	5,625	37·1	11,776	34·9	4,365	33·6	7,333	46·8	73	1·6	5	0·9
Mixed Farming	2,465	13·3	2,604	17·2	5,069	15·0	1,218	9·4	1,747	11·1	2,029	45·7	5	12·6
Services	2,748	14·8	4,891	32·2	7,639	22·7	3,810	29·2	2,842	18·1	738	16·7	249	41·7
Domestic Service	406	2·2	3,605	23·8	4,011	11·9	1,930	14·8	1,612	10·3	406	9·1	63	10·6
Manufacture and Repair ..	2,575	13·9	673	4·4	3,248	9·7	1,445	11·1	1,460	9·3	304	6·8	39	6·5

Digitized by Google

It will be noticed that the number of women wage-earners, both in employment generally and in agriculture, is not far short of the number of men.

There are no regularly published statistics of unemployment, but there is no doubt that it exists to a considerable degree throughout the colony. In the sugar-growing islands, the demand for labour is decidedly greater during the crop season (approximately seven months' from January to July) both in the fields and, to a lesser extent, in the sugar factories. In Antigua the sugar and cotton crops are reaped concurrently, but in St. Kitts, during the slack season between the end of reaping and the commencement of cultivation in the autumn, there is some employment from the reaping of the cotton crop. In Antigua in 1950 there were 2,596 persons employed on the estates in the crop season, as compared with 1,978 persons in the out of crop season.

An enumeration of unemployed persons was carried out in the 1946 census ; this showed that in the Leeward Islands as a whole, and in Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis, approximately five per cent. of all wage-earners were unemployed, in Montserrat 4·2 per cent., and the Virgin Islands 8·6 per cent. These figures, however, only apply to the date of the census, which was held in the month of April, i.e., in the middle of the busy season ; moreover, 1946 was a good sugar crop year. At other times of the year, and in other years, there has undoubtedly been very much more unemployment and, together with under-employment, it is one of the colony's major problems.

There are considerable differences in wages in the various islands. The following are earnings in some of the principal occupations :—

Antigua

Sugar Factory :	*per hour*
Men—skilled	38c.–40c.
semi-skilled	21c.–28c.
unskilled	18c.–26c.
Sugar Estates :	*per day*
Men	$1·59–$2·45
timeworkers	$1·28
Women	92c.–$1·32
timeworkers	67c.
Public Works, Municipal, Electricity Board :	*per hour*
Men—carpenters, masons, electricians	33c.–40c.
lorry drivers, mechanics	24c.–33c.
unskilled	16c.–23c.
Women—unskilled	10c.
Waterfront workers :	
Average monthly earnings	$100–$114

The average working week for all workers is 48 hours.

St. Kitts-Nevis

Basseterre sugar factory :	*per hour*	*Normal hours per week*
Men—skilled (headmen)	75c.	46–48
„ (others)	47c.	46–48
semi-skilled (headmen)	74c.	46–48
„ „ (others)	45c.	48
unskilled (headmen)	40c.	48
„ (others)	24c.	48
Women—unskilled	16c.	44–48

Estates :	*per day*
Men—	$2·14–$3·28
labourers (timeworkers)	91c.–$1·02
Women—labourers (timeworkers)	56c.–68c.
„ (piece-workers)	$1·08

Government employment :	*per hour*	*Normal hours per week*
Men—skilled (carpenters, linesmen, etc.)	34c.	44–48
semi-skilled	22c.	40–48
unskilled	16c.	40–48
Women—unskilled	9c.	40–44

Other occupations :	*per week*
Men—commercial store clerks	$8–$15
Women—commercial store clerks	$6–$8
domestic servants	$2·16–$3

Montserrat

Estates	*per day*
Men—labourers	66c.–80c.
Women—labourers	44c.–52c.
Ginneries :	
Men—labourers	77c.
Women—labourers	51c.
Other occupations :	
Men—artisans (average)	$2·20
road maintenance	72c.
Women—road maintenance	48c.

	per week
Men—commercial store clerks	$6–$10
Women—commercial store clerks	$5–$9
domestic servants	$2·40–$4·50

Virgin Islands

The Government is the chief employer of labour in the Virgin Islands. In terms of United States currency, which is used for all monetary transactions in the Islands, the level of wages has remained about the same in 1948, 1949 and 1950, but it has of course risen in terms of the British West Indies dollar as a result of the revaluation of sterling in 1949.

Skilled workers receive from $3·43–$6 (United States $2·00–$3·50), and unskilled workers from $2·06–$2·57 (United States $1·20–$1·50) per day of eight hours. A working week of 44 hours is customary in both Government and private employment. Domestic servants receive from $17·14–$30·85 (United States $10–$18) per month, with food.

Trade Unions

There are trade unions in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat. The Antigua Trades and Labour Union claims a membership of 12,500, but its enrolled membership has probably been about 9,500 in recent years ; that of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union was 5,285 in 1950, and of the Montserrat Trades and Labour Union 434 in 1950.

Migration

There is a certain amount of movement of workers between the various islands, for example, workers leave Montserrat and Anguilla to seek employment in Antigua and St. Kitts ; from St. Kitts-Nevis workers are recruited under contract to Florida, U.S.A., and to the Dutch islands of Curacao and Aruba, and there is also movement of labour from the Virgin Islands to the American islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Under the Emigrants' Protection Ordinance of 1929, workers may not leave the colony without a permit, which is only granted if they have work to go to or have been recruited by a recruiting agent ; under the Recruiting of Workers Ordinance of 1941 recruiters must be licensed, and only persons over 18 years of age may be recruited, though the Governor may give permission for persons from 16 to 18 years of age to be recruited with the permission of their parents. Recruited workers must be medically examined and brought before a magistrate, and the recruiter or employer must pay journey expenses for them and their families.

Fuel and Power (including Water)

Except for a certain amount of firewood and charcoal which are obtainable locally, and bagasse which is used

Digitized by Google

for the boilers of the power plants of the sugar factories and for the locomotives of the estate railways, the fuel supplies of the Leeward Islands have to be imported.

In Antigua there is a diesel-electric lighting plant in St. John's, supplying current at 220 volts D.C., which was taken over by the Administration of the Presidency in 1948. Its capacity is insufficient for local needs, and in 1949 the Administration purchased one of the two power plants owned by the United States authorities at the Coolidge Field air base, which is now no longer being used by them. These plants have each a capacity of 150 kW. A.C., which is greater than is required either at the present time or potentially ; it is hoped gradually to extend the area of supply of the one which has been acquired. In St. Kitts there are two electric power stations, one at the St. Kitts sugar factory with current at 110 volts A.C. for lighting and power, and the other operated by the Administration, which provides current at 230 volts D.C. for the town of Basseterre ; this latter is inadequate, and a new power station is being built. There is no public electricity generating station in Montserrat ; a small diesel operated plant was installed in Road Town, in the Virgin Islands, in 1950. There are no possibilities for hydro-electric generation in any of the Leewards, and in all of them water supplies are inadequate both in quality and quantity, especially in the rural areas, where piped supplies are not generally available. In the hilly islands water is obtained from springs in the mountains, and is stored in reservoirs for the use of the towns, but in dry weather reserves tend to be insufficient. Elsewhere wells as well as springs are made use of, and cisterns are used for storage.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

The colony has both a Federal budget, and also individual budgets for each of the Presidencies. Federal revenue, to cover the cost of federal services, is raised mainly by contributions from the Presidencies ; the amount of these contributions is in proportion to that of Presidential revenues in a recent year, except in the case of federal police expenditure, which is apportioned in accordance with the distribution of personnel. There is also some direct federal revenue, mainly from stamp sales. Imperial contributions are made to the federal budget to cover the cost of development and welfare schemes which are being carried out on a federal basis, and to Presidential budgets for local schemes. As from 1951, certain police expenditure, as well as the cost of the Labour Departments, has appeared in the Presidency budgets, instead of the Federal budget.

The table on p. 186 shows the total revenue and expenditure, and the amounts received from Imperial grants, in respect of the Federation and the individual Presidencies over the period 1938–51. As will be seen, the Presidencies of Montserrat, Antigua, and the Virgin Islands have received grants in aid of administration, the two last only in 1951. The Federation and the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts received separate grants for specific purposes connected with exceptional damage by fire and hurricanes.

The principal individual items of revenue and expenditure, for the Federal Government and the Presidencies, have been as follows in recent years :—

LEEWARD ISLANDS (FEDERAL)

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Contributions from Presidencies ..	496,145	522,603	615,829
Contributions from Dominica* ..	3,460	8,433	11,500
Fees of Court	1,431	1,347	2,024
Public Departments—			
Printing Office	10,895	9,346	15,000
Post Office	167,693	12,736	23,000
Miscellaneous	6,747	12,517	5,050
Total Local Revenue	686,371	559,662	676,403
Development and Welfare Grants ..	103,450	268,770	102,564
Special Grants, etc.	—	—	86,413
Total Revenue	789,821	828,432	865,380
Expenditure			
Pensions	33,865	40,154	60,108
Governor	24,589	28,294	33,813
Secretariat	23,767	24,484	29,630
Treasury, Audit	23,624	28,887	36,140
Judicial, Legal	26,850	37,744	28,283
Police	364,068	343,733	385,062
Printing	19,513	18,707	29,453
Agriculture	12,479	10,006	10,103
Education	10,128	9,588	11,653
Medical	8,197	7,896	4,537
Post Office	4,971	545	3,600
Miscellaneous	58,922	66,721	130,434
Labour	15,865	17,317	—
Total Expenditure from Local Funds	626,838	634,080	762,816
Development and Welfare Schemes ..	162,983	194,352	102,564
Total Expenditure	789,821	828,432	865,380

* Although Dominica was transferred from the Leeward Islands to the Windward Islands in 1940, contributions are still made to the Leeward Islands budget, mainly in respect of expenditure on police pensions.

Digitized by Google

TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

	Leeward Islands (Federal)			*Antigua*			*St. Kitts-Nevis*			*Montserrat*			*Virgin Islands*		
	Total Revenue	*Grants*	*Total Expenditure*	*Total Revenue*	*Grants*	*Total Expenditure*	*Total Revenue*	*Grants*	*Total Expenditure*	*Total Revenue*	*Grants*	*Total Expenditure*	*Total Revenue*	*Grants*	*Total Expenditure*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938	43,407*	—	43,407	102,501	15,759 C.D.	97,597	137,041	394 C.D.	120,563	24,159	62 C.D. 3,000 Loan-in-Aid	37,168	8,907	476 C.D.	6,712
1939	47,292*	730 C.D.	47,292	127,327	23,469 C.D.	192,311	147,578	2,220 C.D.	179,652	29,301	1,236 C.D. 6,250 Loan-in-Aid	35,496	9,403	2,672 C.D.	11,040
1940	42,176	1,200 C.D.	42,176	132,360	17,780 C.D.	134,124	176,218	317 C.D.	164,167	44,345	10,650 C.D. 3,000 Loan-in-Aid	37,792	9,766	3,250 C.D.	9,682
1941	40,307	500 C.D.	40,307	173,810	12,647 C.D.	144,230	190,509	1,200 C.D.	170,240	37,954	2,965 C.D. 120 Relief	39,521	10,656	1,300 C.D.	10,794
1942	53,363	500 C.D.	53,563	181,792	2,473 C.D.	173,310	197,244	310 C.D.	196,874	36,902	1,202 C.D. 7,000 Grant-in-Aid	41,365	10,853	403 C.D.	11,936
1943	67,525	4,100 C.D.	67,525	219,559	28,069 C.D.	200,974	212,893	10,742 C.D.	183,960	52,661	4,229 C.D. 8,000 Grant-in-Aid	51,478	17,754	3,000 C.D.	13,873
1944	86,480	2,815 C.D. 4,550 relief	86,480	227,823	19,687 C.D.	256,219	232,114	23,041 C.D.	230,413	81,586	25,271 C.D. 20,000 Grant-in-Aid	73,522	15,191	3,405 C.D.	19,746
1945	119,644	32,738 C.D. 4,550 relief	119,644	296,537	76,894 C.D.	310,029	275,522	41,660 C.D.W.	319,008	76,357	20,399 C.D. 10,000 Grant-in Aid	80,150	26,567	13,323 C.D.	27,471
1946	149,358	61,663 C.D.W.	149,358	384,103	103,074 C.D.W.	348,869	330,177	61,529 C.D.W.	287,231	90,850	21,410 C.D.W. 20,000 Grant-in-Aid	86,267	31,443	13,253 C.D.W.	32,390
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1947	555,210	90,612 C.D.W.	555,210	1,847,645	276,909 C.D.W.	1,739,189	1,818,648	83,226 C.D.W.	1,489,077	436,315	78,082 C.D.W. 96,000 Grant-in-Aid	480,038	82,994	71,424 C.D.W.	134,701
1948	668,594	140,471 C.D.W.	668,544	1,497,283	396,574 C.D.W.	1,789,930	1,764,506	52,550 C.D.W.	1,676,216	476,714	17,318 C.D.W. 72,000 Grant-in-Aid	486,550	234,577	59,750 C.D.W.	152,350
1949	789,821	162,983 C.D.W.	789,821	1,952,752	150,021 C.D.W.	1,979,366	1,970,939	34,021 C.D.W.	1,965,977	570,588	29,345 C.D.W. 156,000 Grant-in-Aid	484,494	256,827	3,082 C.D.W.	250,751
1950	828,432	194,352 C.D.W.	828,432	3,109,739	248,762 C.D.W. 374,000 Hurricane Grant	3,038,798	2,244,567	151,655 C.D.W. 30,000 Hurricane Grant	2,494,170	407,021	10,115 C.D.W. 36,000 Grant-in-Aid	482,147	126,196	5,311 C.D.W.	266,366
1951 (revised estimates)	865,380	102,564 C.D.W.	865,380	4,088,340	185,803 C.D.W. 65,300 Hurricane Re-housing Grant 168,000 Grant-in-Aid	4,154,288	2,945,207	131,617 C.D.W. 20,640 Hurricane Grant	2,732,977	725,796	71,200 C.D.W. 141,600 Grant-in-Aid	691,157	344,910	168,000 Grant-in-Aid	262,047

* Including contributions from Dominica of £8,485 in 1938 and £9,627 in 1939 ; in 1940 Dominica was transferred to the Windward Islands.

Digitized by Google

ANTIGUA—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Customs	666,528	773,937	750,000
Import duties	597,267	673,550	—
Export duties	69,261	101,447	—
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues	22,128	29,560	26,000
Internal revenue	347,864	398,681	415,850
Income tax	91,538	94,315	—
Excise duties	103,375	120,055	—
Fees, etc.	141,201	201,983	229,168
Post office, etc.	112,940	95,843	89,718
Stamps	79,659	63,168	—
Rents and Interest	14,526	14,226	16,740
Miscellaneous	72,151	190,254	200,031
Housing and Land Settlement Schemes	4,200	4,533	5,000
Railways Extension schemes	3,986	2,706	5,387
Self-balancing items	417,207	774,654	1,435,240
Total Local Revenue	1,802,731	2,486,977	3,173,134
Development and Welfare Grants	150,021	248,762	249,906
Hurricane Damage Grant	—	206,000	65,300
Grant-in-Aid	—	168,000	600,000
Total Revenue	1,952,752	3,109,739	4,088,340
Expenditure			
Debt charges	42,458	38,964	38,172
Pensions and Gratuities	44,246	48,615	46,762
Federal contribution	228,303	233,025	226,776
Administration	30,377	35,502	40,954
Barbuda	15,189	13,667	20,385
Treasury, etc.	47,536	47,821	62,795
Agriculture	111,019	200,213	243,504
Water Board	45,175	68,729	168,247
Legal	22,115	24,090	41,374
Police	—	—	48,500
Prison, etc.	51,417	48,586	62,300
Medical, Hospital, etc.	294,631	320,397	408,441
Education	160,505	172,256	256,827
Government Undertakings	1,129	1,939	3,140
Municipal	103,039	117,071	143,101
Labour	—	—	10,650
Public Library	3,039	3,511	6,037
Supply Office	7,365	5,862	8,118
Military	4,609	1,919	2,424
Miscellaneous	58,119	68,491	150,577
Post Office and Telephones	86,066	88,323	110,544
Public Works Department	23,360	27,308	37,170
Public Works Recurrent	134,897	180,813	169,250
Public Works Extraordinary	48,666	171,266	47,800
Self-balancing items	416,055	778,477	1,435,240
Total Expenditure from Local Funds	1,979,366	2,696,845	3,754,382
Development and Welfare Schemes	—	245,289	249,906
Public Works Extraordinary (Hurricane Damage)	—	—	150,000
Hurricane Relief	—	96,664	—
Total Expenditure	1,979,366	3,038,798	4,154,288

Digitized by Google

ST. KITTS-NEVIS—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Customs	783,453	914,723	1,053,000
Import duties	596,900 (revised estimates)	759,000 (revised estimates)	787,800
Export duties	148,600 (revised estimates)	176,000 (revised estimates)	265,200
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues	72,718	90,818	95,660
Internal Revenue	479,123	457,067	771,810
Income tax	330,000 (revised estimates)	400,000 (revised estimates)	590,000
Excise duties	52,680 (revised estimates)	45,000 (revised estimates)	36,000
Fees of Office, etc.	57,210	58,478	63,240
Post Office, Telephones, Electric Light, etc.	213,452	149,476	174,430
Stamps	125,000 (revised estimates)	140,000 (revised estimates)	100,000
Government Industries	22,668	25,518	24,270
Rent and Interest	34,909	34,654	28,920
Miscellaneous	13,704	42,870	36,120
Peasant Development (Marketing)	259,681	289,308	371,800
Electricity Supply Loan	—	—	179,700
Total Local Revenue	1,936,918	2,062,912	2,792,950
Development and Welfare Grants	34,021	151,655	131,617
Hurricane Relief Grant	—	30,000	20,640
Total Revenue	1,970,939	2,244,567	2,945,207
Expenditure			
Debt charges	13,468	13,526	13,727
Pensions	53,839	48,669	54,810
Federal contribution	209,984	214,426	186,000
Administration	37,212	52,258	63,016
Anguilla	2,794	—	—
Central Housing Authority	—	2,693	11,922
Treasury, etc.	85,304	85,356	101,010
Agriculture and Veterinary Services	95,714	106,298	144,225
Water Services	19,544	26,837	43,695
Legal	24,368	21,656	34,671
Police	—	—	30,366
Prisons	33,373	30,317	35,411
Medical and Hospitals	291,836	353,206	429,131
Education	205,288	230,920	334,176
Electric Light, Ice, etc.	55,214	60,858	79,626
Municipal	23,224	25,138	34,582
Labour	—	—	8,920
Public Libraries	6,466	8,584	11,758
War Emergency (supply)	11,776	11,534	15,520
Military	6,903	7,980	6,648
Miscellaneous	76,435	73,096	67,171
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	70,548	82,906	105,163
Public Works	89,173	44,338	40,674
Public Works Recurrent	97,468	110,402	117,156
Public Works Extraordinary	106,927	365,595	201,248
Peasant Settlements	27,238	47,706	25,058
Peasant Development	261,689	285,859	371,800
Total Expenditure from Local Funds	1,905,870	2,310,158	2,567,482
Development and Welfare Schemes	60,107	144,867	125,111
Hurricane Relief Grant	—	39,145	40,884
Total Expenditure	1,965,977	2,494,170	2,732,977

Digitized by Google

MONTSERRAT—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)		1950 (*actual*)		1951 (*revised estimates*)	
	$		$		$	
Customs	131,570		135,850		153,000	
Import duties		120,780		124,561		—
Export duties		10,890		11,289		—
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues	3,229		4,313		4,425	
Internal Revenue	49,564		67,025		62,331	
Income tax		12,220		25,570		—
Excise duties		18,747		19,972		—
Fees of Court, etc.	81,309		112,252		135,935	
Post Office, Telegraphs, etc.	108,913		32,506		149,000	
Stamps		101,921		22,465		—
Rents and Interest	2,370		2,615		2,305	
Miscellaneous	8,298		6,345		6,000	
Total Local Revenue	385,253		360,906		512,996	
Imperial Grants-in-Aid	156,000		36,000		141,600	
Development and Welfare Grants	29,345		10,115		71,200	
Total Revenue	570,598		407,021		725,796	
Expenditure						
Debt charges	3,999		2,779		2,796	
Pensions	13,155		12,626		14,260	
Federal contribution	48,854		55,671		49,023	
Administration	15,564		16,599		21,045	
Treasury	19,121		15,689		20,988	
Agriculture	43,359		40,647		97,188	
Water	10,203		4,594		5,748	
Legal, Judicial	13,629		6,617		11,044	
Police	—		—		10,558	
Prison	11,204		16,893		16,672	
Medical, Hospital	64,497		63,897		75,681	
Education	76,666		83,160		101,779	
Municipal	7,292		6,325		7,547	
Public Library	672		1,204		1,542	
Supply Office	2,596		2,132		2,980	
Military	2,592		2,838		2,972	
Miscellaneous	23,593		12,448		11,839	
Post Office, Telephones, Telegraphs	16,509		16,104		21,018	
Public Works Department	9,095		11,754		15,604	
Public Works Recurrent	25,173		26,873		39,945	
Public Works Extraordinary	14,055		6,583		6,168	
Otway Peasant Settlement	51,824		43,557		83,560	
Total Expenditure from Local Funds	467,080		449,889		619,957	
Development and Welfare Schemes	22,414		33,158		71,200	
Total Expenditure	489,494		482,147		691,157	

Digitized by Google

VIRGIN ISLANDS—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Customs	26,704	35,258	36,700
Import duties	23,419	31,626	31,700
Export duties	3,285	3,632	5,000
Port, Harbour and Wharf dues	812	1,249	1,600
Taxes, Licences, Internal Revenue	9,056	14,488	16,711
Income tax	—	4,628	3,000
Excise duties	1,505	1,949	2,400
Fees of Court, etc.	4,406	11,980	6,554
Post Office	187,856	13,282	110,629
Stamps	187,476	12,704	110,000
Rents and Interest	3,430	2,671	2,576
Miscellaneous	20,953	3,884	2,146
Reserve Funds	528	38,073	—
Total Local Revenue	253,745	120,885	176,910
Development and Welfare Grants	3,082	5,311	—
Grant-in-Aid	—	—	168,000
Total Revenue	256,827	126,196	344,910
Expenditure			
Pensions	3,266	3,744	5,396
Federal Contribution	9,004	19,481	14,309
Administration, Treasury, etc.	44,278	40,381	46,465
Agriculture	12,579	20,822	19,927
Education and Public Library	43,172	67,675	66,240
Medical and Health	18,224	25,287	33,287
Miscellaneous	55,277	22,297	25,248
Police and Prisons	2,670	3,763	5,414
Post Office	4,178	3,468	7,639
Public Works	4,481	6,951	3,539
Public Works Recurrent	13,389	26,252	19,317
Public Works Extraordinary	38,228	26,245	15,266
Total Expenditure from Local Funds	248,755	266,366	262,047
Development and Welfare schemes	1,996	—	—
Total Expenditure	250,751	266,366	262,047

Adverse economic circumstances have greatly reduced the prosperity of the Virgin Islands since 1949, and it became necessary to provide a substantial Imperial grant-in-aid in 1951.

The Federal Government has no Public Debt, and balances revenue and expenditure exactly each year by adjusting the Presidential contributions, so that no surplus or deficit is carried forward. The position in regard to Public Debt and assets and liabilities, in each of the individual Presidencies, is shown in the following table :—

PUBLIC DEBT, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Public Debt (*end of* 1950)	*Excess of Assets*		*Excess of Liabilities*	
		December 31*st*, 1949	*December* 31*st*, 1950 (*estimated*)	*December* 31*st*, 1949	*December* 31*st*, 1950 (*estimated*)
	$	$	$	$	$
Antigua	504,663	—	—	39,465	262,998
St. Kitts-Nevis	122,558	898,170	624,137	—	—
Montserrat	94,211	52,205	—	—	60,640
Virgin Islands	nil	53,204	—	—	96,316

Rates of income tax, which are the same in all the Presidencies, are variable—e.g., from 6d. in the £ on the first £100 of taxable income to 3s. on each £ over £500 up to £600, 7s. on each £ over £1,100 up to £1,400, and 13s. 6d. on each £ over £1,500. A deduction of one-tenth, to a maximum of £100, is allowed on earned income, and there is a personal allowance of £100, and allowances of £60 in respect of a wife, £40 for children under 16 years of age, and £75 for children from 16 to 25 years of age, if receiving whole-time education. Company taxation is at the rate of 5s. 6d. in the £.

In 1950 and 1951 respectively, Ordinances were passed in Antigua and Montserrat under which the Governor-in-Council may declare industries not being conducted on a commercial scale and for which there are insufficient manufacturing facilities, or industries for which in his opinion there are favourable possibilities of development, to be pioneer industries, and as such exempt from income tax for a period of five years ; also, building materials, machinery and other equipment for such industries are exempted from customs duties for the same period. In St. Kitts, under the Hotels Aid Ordinance passed in 1949, building materials and equipment for new hotels or extensions may be imported free of customs duties, under licence issued by the Governor, and in each of any five years of eight years following the year of assessment in which the licence is granted, one-fifth of capital expenditure on building or equipment may be set off against income.

Death duties, which are imposed under federal legislation, are at varying rates—e.g., 1 per cent. on estates of from £110 to £200, rising to 6 per cent. on estates of from £8,000 to £10,000, 11 per cent. on estates of from £40,000 to £50,000, and 15 per cent. on estates of £50,000 and upwards. Duty is paid at half the normal rate in the case of estates passing to near relatives.

In Antigua, there is a tax of 2s. per acre annually on all land, except that in plots of less than half an acre ; land suitable for cultivation or pasturage is taxed at the rate

Digitized by Google

of 6d. per acre. In St. Kitts the tax is 72 cents per acre, and in Nevis 40 cents per acre, on cultivated land : in both islands uncultivated land is taxed at 12 cents per acre. In Montserrat 36 cents per acre is payable on cultivable land, but land under forest, being reafforested, or not suitable for cultivation, pays 12 cents per acre ; there is no tax on Crown lands. In the Virgin Islands, areas of land are taxed according to their value, at the rate of ½ per cent. on plots worth £5 or less (minimum tax 1s.), two per cent. on plots worth from £5 to £20 (minimum tax 2s. 6d.), falling by stages to 1¼ per cent. on plots worth £100 and over (minimum tax 30s.). There are house taxes in St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands.

There is no separate system of local taxation, since there are no local authorities ; allocations for municipal expenditure are made in the Presidential budgets of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat.

Currency and Banking

United Kingdom coin and British West Indian notes are legal tender throughout the colony. The notes used have been mainly those of the colony of Trinidad and Tobago, though Barbados and British Guiana Government notes also circulate, as do those issued by Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada. In the British Virgin Islands, however, United States currency is in every day use, and United Kingdom coin and British West Indian notes have virtually disappeared from circulation.

The rate of exchange is $4·80 British West Indies to £1 sterling. The dollar system of accounting is in general use. Legislation was passed in 1950, and is now in force, to implement the Agreement for the establishment of a uniform currency in the British colonies in the Eastern Caribbean (*see* Appendix, page 273).

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial, and Overseas) has branches in Antigua and St. Kitts, and the Royal Bank of Canada has branches in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat. There are no commercial banks in the Virgin Islands.

There are Government Savings Banks in all four Presidencies. The numbers of depositors and amounts of savings are shown in the following table :—

SAVINGS BANKS

	1949		1950	
	Amount of deposits	*Number of depositors*	*Amount of deposits*	*Number of depositors*
	$		$	
Antigua ..	537,465	10,240	573,224	11,400
St. Kitts-Nevis	518,948	3,451	636,000	3,499
Montserrat ..	206,573	1,471	247,296	1,552
Virgin Islands	65,102	325	51,562	385
Total ..	1,328,088	15,487	1,508,082	16,836

Private Investment

In 1949 there were 20 locally-registered companies in Antigua, with a nominal capital of approximately £490,000, and a paid-up capital of approximately £300,000 ; 17 locally-registered companies in St. Kitts, with a nominal capital of approximately £250,000, and a paid-up capital of approximately £140,000 ; and two locally-registered companies in Nevis, with a nominal capital of approximately £150,000. There were no locally-registered companies in Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

The Antigua Sugar Factory Limited and the St. Kitts (London) Company Limited, are both registered in the United Kingdom, as is the Montserrat Company ; the two banks operating in the colony are registered in Canada and the United Kingdom respectively. There is also a boot and shoe company, which operates in Antigua, St. Kitts, and Montserrat, which is registered in the United Kingdom.

National Income

No estimates of the national income of the colony have been made, except for the Virgin Islands, where annual income per head was estimated at £16 2s. 6d. in 1946.

Cost of Living

Cost of living indices are compiled in Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, and Montserrat, but they do not in any of the three Presidencies give more than a rough indication of changes in the working-class cost of living. Their movements in recent years have been as follows :—

1939 = 100	*Antigua*	*St. Kitts-Nevis*	*Montserrat*
June, 1946 ..	161	175	183
,, 1947 ..	172	186	190
,, 1948 ..	199	203	215
,, 1949 ..			220
December, 1949	240		230
June, 1950 ..	247	220	239
December, 1950	255	226	240

There is a comprehensive system of price control, operated on a Presidential basis, covering the prices of foodstuffs and other necessaries.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Statistics of total imports and total exports during the period 1937–50, for the individual Presidencies, are given in the following table :—

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Antigua		*St. Kitts-Nevis*		*Montserrat*		*Virgin Islands*	
	Imports	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*	*Imports*	*Exports*
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1937	280,615	340,733	288,903	389,089	64,275	63,428	12,968	10,558
1938	253,669	204,349	301,785	277,603	59,101	41,311	14,125	9,898
1939	230,874	220,460	293,264	433,824	49,301	57,284	17,595	11,608
1940	228,300	208,203	366,223	434,854	75,656	104,346	18,736	13,376
1941	326,401	266,535	351,548	553,225	99,699	113,346	24,532	14,406
1942	422,826	245,231	319,235	343,738	65,982	26,068	30,469	29,582
1943	462,037	343,247	436,066	577,177	80,751	13,139	31,195	33,005
1944	553,997	249,261	464,911	554,564	105,347	145,943	35,380	30,557
1945	539,039	343,276	635,171	657,437	102,349	99,705	37,558	28,071
1946	713,955	489,362	642,061	711,992	128,977	22,081	54,887	34,186
1947	1,034,929	451,466	931,436	892,714	164,162	50,664	50,294	31,070
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1948	3,825,196	1,851,904	4,103,384	4,418,877	677,524	515,083	254,861	156,326
1949	4,715,633	2,884,402	4,801,626	4,984,368	703,142	867,542	315,163	170,602
1950	6,406,931	5,621,376	5,933,270	5,827,481	724,704	440,918	322,781	143,947

Digitized by Google

Complete statistics regarding re-exports are not available, but they are not a large part of total imports and exports. As shown in the table below on the direction of imports and exports, trade between the Presidencies is also a small proportion of the total, but the difficulty of separating this trade makes it impracticable to give satisfactory statistics of imports and exports for the Leeward Islands taken as a whole.

Complete statistics regarding the principal imports and exports, before and after the war, are not available, but it is possible to make a comparison between the years 1938 and 1950 in respect of some of the main commodities. There is no detailed information regarding the sources and destinations of individual items of imports and exports.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Imports		*Antigua*		*St. Kitts-Nevis*		*Montserrat*		*Virgin Islands*	
		Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
Butter and butter substitutes .. lb.	1938	111,511	£5,169	279,364	£7,772	28,137	£911	10,418	£300
	1950	142,445	$113,588	190,167	$96,730	11,956	$8,009	11,469	$5,811
Fish (all kinds) .. lb.	1938	896,024	£8,978	900,954	£9,485	294,968	£3,302	4,530	£111
	1950	663,119	$152,762	942,305	$211,570	190,858	$24,106	4,996	$2,856
Grain (all kinds) lb.	1938	7,708,621	£41,350	8,230,713	£46,609	1,386,618	£8,078	694,626	£3,465
	1950	5,488,563	$298,605	10,609,267	$872,238	1,922,232	$105,434	n.a.	$73,857
Meat (all kinds) lb.	1938	201,007	£5,468	212,421	£6,336	20,604	£713	8,034	£331
	1950	386,971	$171,548	469,209	$192,640	45,492	$13,124	9,005	$5,634
Timber ft. (unmanufactured)	1938	1,054,182	£13,419	1,038,892	£15,336	175,417	£2,512	90,867	£771
	1950	1,444,801	$340,762	1,378,211	$315,259	n.a.	$33,685	113,197 board ft.	$33,685
Apparel	1938	—	£5,552	—	£4,258	—	£136	—	£242
	1950	—	$290,770	—	$49,767	—	$5,869	—	$4,513
Boots and shoes.. pairs	1938	n.a.	£6,332	n.a.	£4,782	n.a.	£965	n.a.	£241
	1950	62,583	$101,308	66,168	$114,348	10,896	$23,525	1,764	$5,263
Cotton piece goods yds.	1938	602,523	£11,350	868,988	£17,909	227,767	£4,544	8,794	£231
	1950	n.a.	$260,164	n.a.	$287,215	n.a.	$58,531	n.a.	$12,883
Oils (non-edible) galls.	1938	277,853	£9,954	284,231	£8,875	54,768	£1,523	7,855	£430
	1950	507,691	$149,440	750,925	$206,038	96,996	$23,794	72,218	$8,328
Sugar .. .. lb.	1938	523,309	£2,514	959,241	£4,934	1,095,822	£5,588	339,866	£1,292
	1950	—	—	—	—	1,272,784	$90,413	—	—

Exports		*Antigua*		*St. Kitts-Nevis*		*Montserrat*		*Virgin Islands*	
		Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
Sugar .. .. tons	1938	20,844	£172,762	26,481	£204,835	—	—	—	—
	1950	31,817	$4,590,505	38,647	$5,376,491	—	—	—	—
Molasses.. .. galls.	1938	1,054,087	£11,521	504,499	£5,434	—	—	—	—
	1950	12,000	$3,000	1,007,647	$113,044	—	—	—	—
Cotton .. .. lb.	1938	166,797	£11,630	729,753	£45,193	400,496	£24,900	—	—
	1950	765,548	$645,897	269,605	$213,576	362,867	$313,132	—	—
Vegetables (all kinds) ..	1938	n.a.	£769	n.a.	£891	n.a.	£5,697	n.a.	£517
	1950	—	—	n.a.	$1,255	n.a.	$1,258	n.a.	$10,368
Citrus products	1938	n.a.	£626	—	—	n.a.	£1,041	—	—
	1950	—	—	—	—	n.a.	$18,274	—	—
Livestock number	1938	43	£300	697	£1,326	120	£364	5,679	£5,684
	1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,703	$86,476
Fish (fresh) .. lb.	1938	—	—	—	—	—	—	29,700	£379
	1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,700	$7,025
Charcoal	1938	n.a.	£121	—	—	—	—	—	£1,462
	1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,722	$15,683
Fruits (fresh) .. lb.	1938	n.a.	£389	n.a.	£41	n.a.	£1,155	n.a.	£575
	1950	—	—	—	—	—	—	n.a.	$12,601

Digitized by Google

The available information regarding the direction of trade in the years since the war is somewhat incomplete, but it is possible to make a comparison between the years 1938 and 1948, in regard to the principal sources of imports and destinations of exports :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

IMPORTS

	Antigua		*St. Kitts-Nevis*		*Montserrat*		*Virgin Islands*	
	1938	1948	1938	1948	1938	1948	1938	1948
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	40	23	40	26	33	14	17	5
British North America	23	39	24	36	30	45	8	2
Other British Countries	17	19	14	22*	11	16	5	1
U.S.A.	13	17	12	14	13	14	21‡	82†
Other Foreign Countrues	5	1	9	2	3	2	49†	—
Total External	98	99	99	n.a.	90	91	100	90
Inter-Presidency	2	1	1	n.a.	10	9	—	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

EXPORTS

United Kingdom	42	88	53	95	55	85	—	—
British North America	52	—	44	—	19	2	—	—
Other British Countries	—	8	2	3*	5	5	1	—
U.S.A.	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	98†
Other Foreign Countries	—	—	—	2	16	1	97†	2‡
Total External	95	96	99	n.a.	97	94	98	100
Inter-Presidency	5	4	1	n.a.	3	6	2	—
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Includes trade with other Presidencies. † Includes trade with U.S. Virgin Islands. ‡ Excludes trade with U.S. Virgin Islands.

In recent years all the Presidencies, except St. Kitts-Nevis, have had large surpluses of imports over exports. In Antigua, the excess of imports has been due to expenditure connected with the United States air base and by American tourists, grants in respect of hurricane damage and administration, and Development and Welfare expenditure. Montserrat has been regularly in receipt of substantial annual grants-in-aid as well as contributions from Development and Welfare funds. In the case of the Virgin Islands, earnings abroad, in the neighbouring United States islands, have been an important item. In the case of all the territories, including St. Kitts, there are likely to be remittances from emigrants who are abroad.

St. Kitts-Nevis is more prosperous than the other Presidencies, and the fact that dividend payments are made to the United Kingdom by the sugar factory will have offset the main " invisible " item on the other side, i.e., receipts from Development and Welfare funds, so that imports and exports of goods have roughly balanced.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

An allocation of £1,200,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds was made in 1945 to the Leeward Islands as a whole ; it was originally intended that there should be a Ten-Year Development Plan on a federal basis, but in 1949 it was decided to have separate Development Plans for each Presidency. Out of the total allocation, however, £120,700 was reserved to cover the cost of schemes already being carried out on a federal basis. Most of these schemes are concerned with the improvement of agriculture, education and health conditions ; it is expected that a further £20,000 will be needed to complete them. Their cost has been met entirely from the Development and Welfare allocation. The remainder of the allocation was divided among the four Presidencies—Antigua receiving £499,000, St. Kitts-Nevis £227,000, Montserrat £168,400, and the Virgin Islands £84,600.

The position in regard to Development Plans in each of the Presidencies is as follows :—

Antigua

A revised Development Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in May, 1951 ; this Plan was still under consideration, and had not been formally approved, at the beginning of 1952. Up to the end of 1950, out of the Presidency allocation of £499,000, approximately £275,000 had already been spent on Development and Welfare schemes (including £46,000 on federally-administered educational schemes), and it was estimated that a further £20,000 would be spent on existing schemes in 1951. Of this total of £295,000, £201,000 was accounted for by agricultural development (mainly land settlement and agricultural experimental work), £46,000—as already mentioned—by educational schemes (mainly school building), and £24,500 by projects for improving water supplies. The revised Development Plan contains proposals for further expenditure amounting to £402,495 during the period 1951–55, or £198,170 more than the £204,325 remaining from Antigua's share of the original Colonial Development and Welfare allocation. During 1951, however, it was agreed that Antigua should receive a further grant from Development and Welfare funds amounting to £200,000, and this would provide sufficient funds for carrying out the proposed schemes, if they are approved in the form in which they have been put forward.

The main items in the revised Plan are Housing and Slum Clearance—£140,000, of which the restoration of hurricane damage accounts for £32,000 ; Public Health, £58,000 of which the rebuilding and extension of the principal hospital accounts for £44,000, and the establishment of health centres £13,000 ; Education—£50,600, of which school buildings account for £32,600 ; Agriculture —£41,380, £30,000 of which is for land settlement ; drilling for water supplies, £40,000 ; and municipal development, £31,500, of which the provision of a new market accounts for £25,000. It is estimated that the carrying out of the Plan would lead to additional recurrent expenditure of £10,100 per annum after 1955.

Digitized by Google

There are also certain projects which it is proposed should be financed by loans. The most important of these are housing—£108,000, of which it is suggested that £48,000 should be provided by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Funds ; improvement of rural water supplies—£70,000 ; and reorganisation of electricity supplies—£40,000.

St. Kitts-Nevis

A Development Plan was submitted in March, 1950, and was approved, subject to some revisions, in January, 1952. These revisions were in part necessary to meet the cost of earthquake damage at the end of 1950, which was particularly severe in Nevis. The estimated cost of making good this damage is approximately £100,000, of which half is to be met by Imperial funds and the other half by the Presidency ; additional revenue is being raised and certain less urgent schemes in the Development Plan are being given up in order to make the necessary resources available.

The estimated amounts of revenue and expenditure (excluding earthquake damage costs) over the period 1946–56 are as follows :—

ST. KITTS-NEVIS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Revenue	£
C.D.W. allocation	327,824
Loans	145,000
Sugar Labour Welfare Fund	152,000
Local Funds	565,850
Total	1,190,674

Expenditure	£
Agriculture	202,655
Communications	106,491
Public Utilities	180,500
Social Services	379,150
Housing	259,896
Miscellaneous	52,000
	1,180,692
Loan service costs	21,982
Total	1,202,674

The main schemes under each heading are as follows :—

Agriculture ; agricultural development and land settlement, Nevis (£106,000), agricultural station, St. Kitts (£32,000), land settlement, St. Kitts (£22,000).

Communications ; road reconstruction (£70,000), piers, St. Kitts and Anguilla (£23,000).

Public Utilities ; electric light and power scheme, St. Kitts (£109,500), water supplies, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla (£46,000), telephone system, St. Kitts (£25,000).

Social Services ; education—school buildings, training of teachers, equipment—(£115,000) ; public health—health centres, hospitals, preventive services—(£94,000) ; Old Age Pensions (£48,000).

Housing ; rural housing (£120,000), urban housing (£94,000).

Miscellaneous ; salary revision (£48,000).

A beginning has been made with some of these schemes —mainly those concerned with agricultural development and land settlement, and road construction—but the greater part remain to be carried out.

Montserrat

A Development Plan was submitted in 1949 and received the general approval of the Secretary of State in September, 1950. It was further revised in September, 1951, though its main outlines remained unaltered.

The total funds available for development amounted to £168,400, consisting of the Colonial Development and Welfare allocation to Montserrat, amounting to £124,000, together with the Presidency's share in connection with federally-administered educational schemes, amounting to £44,400. As the Presidency is normally grant-aided, no contribution to the cost of development is possible from local revenue. By August, 1951, £82,342 of the total allocation had been either spent or was committed in respect of existing schemes ; of this approximately £26,800 was on education (mainly building of schools), £19,350 on hospital extensions and other public health measures, £16,900 on road re-surfacing and improvements, and £16,700 on agricultural development and land settlement.

The Revised Plan provides for a further expenditure of £123,790 over the period 1951–55, of which £82,540 is to be obtained from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and the remainder from loans. The main items of expenditure are £28,880 on education (mainly school buildings), £20,000 on housing, £18,660 on land settlement, £12,500 on the improvement of water supplies, £12,000 on extension of cold storage accommodation, £10,000 on the provision of electric light and power, £10,000 on road improvements, and £7,500 on public health measures.

Virgin Islands

A draft Development Plan was submitted in August, 1951, but at the beginning of 1952 it had not received the approval of the Secretary of State, and the proposals made in it were therefore only provisional.

Of the original Colonial Development and Welfare allocation of £84,600, approximately £17,000 had been spent by the middle of 1951, mainly on agricultural development, health and education. In drafting the Development Plan, which is intended to cover the period 1951–56, it has been assumed that additional Colonial Development and Welfare and other funds would be available as follows :—

	£
Colonial Development and Welfare funds	77,021
Grants-in-Aid (for Public Works Extraordinary)	74,427
Loans	24,800
Grant-in-Aid for additional recurrent expenditure	18,670
Total	£194,918

Expenditure (other than recurrent expenditure) is proposed as follows :—

	£
Administration, including surveys, etc. (official buildings, approximately, £25,000)	49,000
Agriculture, including agricultural credit (£10,000)	17,000
Electricity, marketing depot, cold storage, tourism, industrial credit (power, storage and marketing £25,000)	42,000
Improvement of water supplies	5,000
Communications (roads £23,600, jetties £8,300)	39,000
Medical and Health services (hospitals and health centres £8,000)	11,000
Education, including teachers' quarters (schools £6,000)	12,000
Total	£175,000

The additional recurrent expenditure under the Plan after 1956 is estimated at £7,616 per annum ; it is hoped that additional revenue will be sufficient to cover this.

Other Development

In Antigua about £300,000 has been spent since 1948 in developing the Mill Reef Club, a United States tourist enterprise, and expenditure is continuing at the rate of about £60,000 annually. In Nevis there are plans to spend about £300,000 on the erection of two hotels. The Montserrat Company is considering the installation of an electric power station for the operation of their cotton ginnery, etc. (it has been proposed under the Development Plan that a contribution should be made from Colonial Development and Welfare funds towards the extension of this plant). In the Virgin Islands, a small hotel is being constructed at Road Town, and there are possibilities of tourist development by United States interests which might involve investment amounting to £200,000 during the period 1951–56.

Digitized by Google

A7837 Vv.4041 4625 1/53 Gp. 959 Foyle & Cross Ltd., London

Digitized by Google

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Scale

MILES 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 10 15 MILES

REFERENCE

- County Boundaries
- Principal Roads
- Railways
- Cocoa
- Sugar Cane
- Coconuts
- Forest Reserves
- Oilfields
- Oil Refineries

CARIBBEAN SEA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

GULF OF PARIA

61°35′ 61°10′ 60°45′

10°40′ 10°25′ 10°10′

VENEZUELA

CHACACHACARE

Monos

Teteron

Carenage

Four Roads

ST GEORGE

PORT OF SPAIN

San Juan

Chupara Pt.

Maracas Bay

Blanchisseuse

Matelot

Grand Riviere

Sans Souci

Toco

Galera Pt.

Cumana Bay

ST DAVID

St Joseph

Tunapuna

Tacarigua

Arouca

Caroni

Caroni River

Caroni Swamp

Warner

Jerningham Junction

St Thomas

Caparo River

Arima

Valencia

ST ANDREW

Salibia Bay

Matura

Matura Bay

Guare River

Sagre Grande

San Rafael

Calparo

Manzanilla

Governor

CARONI

Tadds Road

Freeport

Couva

Gran Couva

Tortigo

Tabaquite

NARIVA

Nariva Swamp

Cocos Bay

Claxton Bay

Pointe a Pierre

SAN FERNANDO

Palmyra

New Grant

St Madeleine

Victoria

Rambert

Lengua

Ortoire River

Rio Claro

Fonrose

Lazzari

Ecclesville

Mayaro Pt.

St Joseph

Plaisance

St Margarets

Mayaro Bay

Mairan

Roberts

Poole River

La Brea

Pitch Lake

Guapo Bay

Guapo

St Mary

Fyzabad

Barrackpore

VICTORIA

MAYARO

Penal

Cap De Ville

ST PATRICK

Siparia

Basseterre

Moruga River

Moruga

Guayaguayare Bay

Pt. Galeota

Cedros Bay

Chatham

Erin Bay

Francique

Erin

Palo Seco

The Serpents Mouth

TOBAGO

60°50′ 60°40′ 60°30′

11°25′ 11°20′ 11°15′

Man-of-War Bay

Charlotteville

Speyside

Castara Bay

Plymouth

Roxborough

Buccoo Reef

Mount St. George

Scarborough

Longitude West 61°10′ of Greenwich

Crown Copyright Reserved (facing page 195)

Digitized by Google

A7837 Wt.4041 1,625 1/53 Gp. 959 Posh & Cross Ltd., London

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

Trinidad and Tobago are the southermost of the West Indian chain of islands. Situated in the Caribbean Sea, they have been governed jointly as the Colony of Trinidad and Tobago since 1889. Trinidad, the second largest of the British West Indian islands, lies between 10° 2′ and 10° 5′ north latitude and 60° 55′ and 61° 56′ west longitude, and may be considered geologically as part of the South American continent, from which it is approximately six and half miles distant. Situated immediately opposite to the delta of the great Orinoco River, the island is within sight of the Venezuelan mainland, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Paria.

Trinidad is roughly rectangular, measuring about 65 miles at its greatest length, 50 miles at its greatest breadth, and has an area of approximately 1,864 square miles or approximately 1,192,845 acres.

Two mountain systems, the Northern and Southern Ranges, stretch across the entire width of the island parallel to each other. A third, the Central Range, lies somewhat diagonally across its middle portion. Rivers are numerous but small and the mountain ranges abound with ravines. Of the many rivers none is of sufficient length or volume to be navigable to anything but the smallest craft. Trinidad's geological structure is diversified and consequently there is a great variety of soil and vegetation.

The climate is tropical but healthy. There are two seasons in the year, namely the dry season from January to May and the wet season from June to December, the driest months being March and April and the wettest July and August. The heat of the dry season is generally tempered by the winds which constantly blow at that time of the year, but during the rainy season the heat is damp and oppressive. Even in the rainy season the greater part of the day is usually fine, the rain falling in heavy showers followed by brilliant sunshine. The temperature of the island ranges between 70° in the morning to 88° in the middle of the day, and from 66° in the cool December nights to 93° during the hot months. The distribution of rainfall is uneven, the average yearly figures ranging from 50 inches to 120 inches.

The island is entirely free from storms and hurricanes, and is not subject to floods and droughts. There is a constant breeze, but there are hardly ever high winds. Volcanic eruptions and tidal waves are unknown.

The island of Tobago lies between 11° 8′ and 11° 21′ north latitude and 60° 30′ and 60° 50′ west longitude, and is 20 miles north east of Trinidad. It is approximately 26 miles long by 7½ miles wide and has an area of 116 square miles. The climate is similar to that of Trinidad but with slightly lower temperatures.

Population

The population of the colony was shown at the census of 1946 to be composed of the following racial or colour groups :—

POPULATION—RACIAL GROUPS

Race	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Percentage of Total*
African descent	129,092	132,393	261,485	46·88
East Indian descent ..	101,003	94,744	195,747	35·09
Mixed and coloured descent	37,375	41,400	78,775	14·12
White descent ..	7,806	7,477	15,283	2·74
Chinese descent	3,749	1,892	5,641	1·01
Other Asiatic descent ..	536	353	889	0·16
Carib descent ..	17	9	28	—
Not stated ..	73	51	124	—
	279,651	278,319	557,970	100·00

The proportion of the population living in the urban areas of Port of Spain, San Fernando and Arima rose from 20·8 per cent. in 1921 to 23·2 per cent. in 1946.

The negro population formed over half the population living in the urban areas in 1946, whereas the East Indians were only 11 per cent. of the urban dwellers, but 45 per cent. of the population of the rural areas.

The age groupings recorded at the Census were :—

POPULATION—AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
0– 4 ..	41,715	41,177	82,892
5–14 ..	61,523	60,600	122,123
15–24 ..	48,503	51,902	100,405
25–34 ..	44,476	43,528	88,004
35–44 ..	35,179	33,242	68,421
45–54 ..	22,764	21,043	43,807
55–64 ..	13,969	12,794	26,763
65–74 ..	8,339	9,835	18,174
75 and over and not stated	3,183	4,198	7,381
	279,651	278,319	557,970

The outstanding feature of the population has been its rapid rate of growth, a tendency which slackened between the wars but has accelerated in the post-war years. The population recorded at the last six census dates and the estimated mid-year population in recent years has been :—

GROWTH OF POPULATION

Year		*Population*	*Average Annual Percentage Increase since Previous Census*
1891		218,381	2·46
1901		273,899	2·28
1911	Census	333,552	2·00
1921		365,913	0·92
1931		412,783	1·21
1946		565,950	2·04
1947		582,900	
1948	Estimated	600,000	
1949	mid-year	615,950	
1950		632,450	
1951		648,700	

In the fifteen years between 1931 and 1946 the population increased by 35 per cent. The rise in the rate of natural increase first became evident in the early thirties ; it was due at first mainly to the falling death rate, but soon a steeper rise resulted from a combination of falling death and rising birth rates :—

BIRTH, DEATH, AND NATURAL INCREASE RATES

(*per 000 of population*)

	Crude Birth Rate	*Crude Death Rate*	*Rate of natural increase*
1921–25	33·1	21·7	11·4
1926–30	31·2	19·9	11·3
1931–35	30·6	18·6	12·0
1936–40	32·7	16·3	16·4
1941–45	37·0	15·9	21·1
1946	38·5	13·7	24·8
1947	38·3	13·4	24·9
1948	39·9	12·2	27·7
1949	37·2	12·1	25·1
1950	37·5	12·1	25·4
1951	37·0	12·2	24·8

The crude birth rate of the East Indian population is approximately 10 per 1,000 greater than the rate for the rest of the population, while death rates are approximately the same.

Digitized by Google

Infant mortality rates, although still high by British standards, have fallen considerably in recent years.

INFANT MORTALITY

1921–5	1926–30	1931–5	1936–40	1941–5	1947	1948	1949	1950
133·1	129·4	121·7	105·0	95·7	81·5	75·5	80·0	80·3

It is estimated that the population of the colony will in some 30 years time reach the million mark, and may even exceed it.

The estimated net gain in population represented by migration in the inter-censal years was :—

MIGRATION

	Total Increase	*Natural Increase*	*Percentage of Total Increase Represented by Natural Increase*	*Loss or Gain by Migration*
	'000	'000	%	'000
1901–11	59·7	33·9	56·9	+25·7
1911–21	32·4	32·5	100·4	− 0·1
1921–31	46·9	44·7	96·3	+ 2·1
1931–46	145·2	120·9	83·3	+24·3

It is estimated that between 1921 and 1946 approximately 41,000 people entered the colony who had been born outside it and some 15,000 people left the colony, making the net gain 26,000 (see table above).

The numbers gainfully employed in the principal industries at the time of the census in 1946 were :—

EMPLOYMENT IN PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

Industry	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	%
(i) Agriculture ..	43,069	10,777	53,846	25·27
Minerals, quarrying, etc. ..	6,644	128	6,772	3·18
Fishing, hunting ..	1,588	4	1,592	0·75
Forestry	3,165	164	3,329	1·56
(ii) Manufacture and Repair	26,682	11,206	37,888	17·78
Construction ..	21,184	428	21,612	10·14
Transport and Communication ..	12,113	667	12,780	6·00
Commercial ..	12,613	6,229	18,842	8·84
Recreational ..	768	122	890	0·42
Professional ..	4,039	3,654	7,693	3·61
Public	16,147	1,418	17,565	8·24
Personal	5,045	17,520	22,565	10·59
Industry not stated	7,080	639	7,719	3·62
Total	160,137	52,956	213,093	100·00

The numbers employed in various forms of agriculture were as follows :—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
(i) Sugar Planting ..	16,671	5,431	22,102
Mixed Farming ..	14,511	2,867	17,378
Cocoa Farming ..	6,262	1,233	7,495
Coconut Farming ..	2,721	667	3,388
Other Agriculture ..	2,904	579	3,483
Total Agriculture ..	43,069	10,777	53,846

The numbers employed in various manufactures were as follows :—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
(ii) Sugar Milling ..	3,294	200	3,494
Other Food, Drink, Ice	1,998	593	2,591
Woodworking ..	2,286	413	2,699
Textiles and Apparel ..	5,335	9,130	14,465
Metals, Machinery, Vehicles	5,242	51	5,293
Petroleum Refining ..	4,557	151	4,708
Other	3,970	668	4,638
Total Manufacture and Repair	26,882	11,206	37,888

The numbers engaged in agriculture have fallen from 89,305 in 1931 to 53,846 in 1946 (although there is some difference in the classification at the two census dates). Even after allowing for this, however, the decline in the numbers employed in agriculture is still very large. The decline was most marked in cocoa growing (although the numbers in the industry have probably increased since the revival of the industry which took place after 1946) but there has also been a marked decline in the numbers employed in sugar planting. This trend has been observable for a long time. The proportion of agricultural population to total population (taking gainfully occupied men) fell from 50 per cent. in 1921 to 25 per cent. in 1946 and the proportion of agricultural to rural (i.e., non-urban) population from 64 per cent. to 36 per cent. in the same period.

To some extent the fall may have been due to the fact that the sugar and cocoa industries had not recovered from the effect of the war by 1946, but it also undoubtedly reflects the change from a predominantly agricultural to a semi-industrial economy. (Although the oil fields and refineries make an important contribution to the total national product they are relatively unimportant as employers of labour, so that changes in the numbers employed in this industry would not be responsible for the growing importance of non-agricultural employment.)

Among the more important occupational, as distinct from industrial groups, recorded at the census were the following :—

OCCUPATIONS

Males		*Females*	
Farm Labourers ..	24,178	Dressmakers ..	8,917
Labourers (not in Agriculture, Fishing or Forestry) ..	21,094	Farm Labourers ..	8,131
Farmers	15,376	Domestic Servants ..	7,900
Carpenters	8,540	Laundresses	5,168
Office Clerks ..	7,028	Hawkers and Pedlars	2,959
Motor Vehicle Drivers	5,906	Farmers	2,574
Mechanics and Repairmen	5,448	Cooks	2,447
Shop Assistants ..	3,478	School Teachers ..	1,713
Tailors	3,067	Shop Assistants ..	1,679
Shopkeepers ..	2,698	Labourers (not in Agriculture, Mining, or Forestry) ..	1,353
Hawkers and Pedlars	2,521	Office Clerks	1,231
Bricklayers ..	2,385		
Plumbers	2,314		

The numbers of employers, workers on-own-account, wage earners, etc., in each of the industry groups shown in the census were :—

Digitized by Google

	Total	Employers	Workers on Own account	Wage and Salary Earners			Others (mostly unpaid helpers)
				At work	Learners	Unemployed	
Agriculture	53,846	957	17,008	32,390	13	855	2,623
Minerals, Quarrying, etc. ..	6,772	29	47	6,308	73	312	3
Fishing, Hunting	1,592	71	989	515	—	9	8
Forestry	3,329	60	1,613	1,536	1	77	42
Manufacture and Repair ..	37,888	464	13,406	18,940	3,415	1,432	231
Construction	21,612	273	2,739	16,268	560	1,748	24
Transport and Communications	12,780	117	1,448	10,257	100	842	16
Commercial	18,842	849	7,566	9,458	10	597	362
Recreational	890	17	142	684	1	40	6
Professional	7,693	27	1,048	6,104	221	119	174
Public	17,565	14	147	16,103	53	1,241	7
Personal	22,565	209	5,838	14,711	12	1,599	196
Industry not stated	7,719	1	101	5,716	4	679	1,218
	213,093	3,088	52,092	138,990	7,463	9,550	4,910

The total labour force, if the 5,691 persons seeking a first job (3,313 males and 2,377 females) are added, was 218,784.

Social Amenities

Education

This is free and compulsory for all children aged 6–12 living within a two-mile radius of a Government or assisted school. The Government's aim is to provide free education for all children aged 5–15.

There were 117,713 children aged 5–15 (some 95 per cent. of the estimated population of that age) enrolled in primary, intermediate, secondary, private and orphanage schools in 1949. Of these 104,473 were in primary, 5,419 in intermediate and 5,302 in secondary schools.

There were 303 primary and intermediate schools in 1949, of which 50 were Government schools and the remainder largely controlled by the various denominations. Most of the latter are assisted schools which are controlled by Boards of Management. The salaries of teachers in such schools are paid by the Government and teachers are on the same scales as in government schools. The denominational Boards of Management provide and maintain the buildings with the aid of Government grants. These schools must be open to all children without distinction of religion, nationality or language. There are no assisted schools maintained by non-Christian bodies. There are some 3,000 teachers in primary and intermediate schools, mostly locally trained.

There was one Government secondary school in 1949—Queens Royal College for boys, 10 assisted secondary schools, and 21 private secondary schools. Most of the latter were in Port of Spain.

The colony's educational programme provides for the construction of two technical schools, two secondary modern schools, 22 new Government primary schools and 17 extensions, 45 new assisted primary schools or replacements of existing assisted schools, and six extensions and repairs to 21 other schools.

Technical and commercial education is in the hands of the Board of Industrial Training, a statutory body in receipt of a Government grant. The Board maintains a junior technical school (full-time) at San Fernando and also conducts theoretical and practical evening classes at Port of Spain, San Fernando and on the oilfields in preparation for the examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute. Instruction is given on the technical side in mechanical engineering, motor engineering, electrical engineering, plumbing, building construction, book-binding, typography, tailoring and painters' and decorators' work and commercial subjects. At the end of 1950 there were 548 registered apprentices and 2,166 other students attending the Board's classes.

There are a number of handicraft centres for boys and domestic centres for girls.

For University education students must go abroad. A number of scholarships are available locally for the University College of the West Indies and for other universities. The Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, which draws students from all over the world, offers specialist courses of University standard and carries out research work.

There are three Teachers' Training Colleges, one Government and the others denominational.

Adult education evening classes in a variety of subjects are conducted at nine centres.

Health

The health of the people is generally satisfactory. During recent years there has been an appreciable decline in the incidence of morbidity and mortality. A reduction in infant mortality has been largely due to the activities of the Child Welfare League and to educational propaganda.

The principal diseases are hookworm, tuberculosis, malaria, syphilis, dysentery, typhoid fever and pneumonia.

The number of cases and deaths from tuberculosis is not properly known owing to irregular notification, but the disease is fairly widespread. In 1947 a separate tuberculosis division was set up at the Caribbean Medical Centre, and in 1948 the Masson Tuberculosis Hospital (200 beds) was opened, and in 1950 a sanatorium of 160 beds. At San Fernando diagnostic clinics are conducted daily.

As a result of the vigorous campaign carried out by the Malaria Control Unit there has been an appreciable fall in the incidence of malaria. Spraying with D.D.T. was introduced in 1945.

There has recently been a slight increase in the number of known cases of syphilis and a marked increase in cases of gonorrhoea, although this may be due to more persons reporting for treatment. The Caribbean Medical Centre, which was set up in Trinidad in 1944 by the Caribbean Commission for the control and prevention of venereal diseases and tuberculosis, is now run by the Trinidad Government with the aid of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. Large sums have been spent on the operation of the centre and on the establishment of field clinics and on propaganda. Local and overseas medical and nursing staff are trained at the centre.

Special hookworm units operate throughout the colony and a system of random sampling has been instituted to collect specimens for examination.

A decline in the incidence of enteric fevers has resulted from the drive for better sanitation, latrine construction and inoculation.

There are three Colonial Hospitals, at Port of Spain, San Fernando, and Tobago, and nine district hospitals. There are two houses of refuge (Trinidad and Tobago), a mental hospital at St. Ann's, a leprosarium at Chacachacare, the Caribbean Medical Centre specially for venereal diseases and tuberculosis cases, the Masson Tuberculosis Hospital and a tuberculosis sanatorium. The total number of beds at these institutions is around

Digitized by Google

2,670, and there are another 120 beds at private hospitals. In addition there are health centres and dispensaries at various points throughout the Colony, including Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Clinics.

Housing

The population of Trinidad is largely centred in Port of Spain and San Fernando and its housing problems follow the general West Indian pattern of overcrowding, congestion and poor structural conditions in both town and country.

To a large extent the inhabitants of the rural districts are owner-occupiers, while in the towns rent-payers are in the great majority, though with the availability of land on the outskirts of Port of Spain and in rural districts on freehold tenure or on lease for periods of from 25 to 99 years, an increasing number of persons from the towns are becoming owner-occupiers. Conditions are improving gradually with the demolition of old and dilapidated buildings and the erection of new and more modern houses.

In towns houses are commonly built of locally-made hollow clay blocks which are laid between concrete or wooden framings. Roofing is of various types—corrugated galvanised iron, asbestos or aluminium sheeting, mineral roofing, and manufactured or pre-cast concrete tiles. In the country the old three-room cottages constructed of tapia grass and clay, with windows and doors, etc., made of local timber and roofs of palm leaves, are gradually giving way to hollow-clay houses. There is also a growing tendency in the towns and in some rural districts towards two-storeyed buildings or buildings on high pillars.

General housing standards are controlled by the Central Board of Health and by the local authority in each area, and are contained in bye-laws specially adopted for each of the urban, the primary rural and the secondary rural areas. Special and general conditions and regulations exist in respect of room sizes, coverage of plots by buildings, ventilation and drainage, building lot sizes, etc.

The Government set up a Planning and Housing Commission in 1942. The Commission operates under a Slum Clearance Ordinance, and its funds are raised by Government loans and contributions and contributions by the various municipal authorities. It is mainly concerned with the abolition of slums, the prevention of irregular development and the provision of healthier and cheap housing accommodation for those persons who are removed from slum areas. Up to December, 1949, over $8 million had been made available to the Commission mainly from loan funds and advances from general revenue. By the end of 1950 1,409 houses and 586 flats had been completed. Substantial sums will be required for further slum clearance. Additional houses estimated to cost $5 million are required to provide alternative accommodation for persons living in privately owned slum dwellings, and for the continuation of the slum clearance programme.

The Government has also undertaken housing and settlement schemes in rural areas, particularly near the sugar estates. The sugar and cocoa estates and oil companies supplied the land free of charge and the Government undertook the development. Two experimental settlements have been established, at Williamsville and Caroni. This development is to be accompanied by the remodelling of insanitary villages, and it has been recommended that the major part of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund should be devoted to the housing of labourers in the sugar industry.

The Government has also set up a Board and provided funds to enable civil servants, by means of mortgage loans, to provide housing accommodation for themselves and their families and to discharge encumbrances on these and on houses already owned. Loans are made for periods of up to 20 years and interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum is charged on all outstanding balances. Similar facilities are afforded to Friendly Societies.

Rents are fixed by Boards specially appointed under a Rent Restriction Ordinance introduced during the war. Generally, rents are based on the capital cost of a building and include rates and water charges and fire insurance premiums. Owing to the difficulty of correctly assessing tenants' earnings, it has not been found possible to establish any scheme of equitable rents based on earnings. Typical rents for Government-built flats and houses range in the urban areas from £1 17s. per month for the one-bedroom type of house to £3 12s. per month for the three-bedroom type. In rural housing estates rents range from 16s. 8d. per month for the one-bedroom type to £2 10s. per month for the three-bedroom typs.

There are no real Building Societies in Trinidad, but a few private and public companies have been formed for the purpose of making loans on mortgage. The interest payable varies from eight and 12 per cent. for small loans to six and seven per cent. for larger ones.

Social Security

There is no provision for unemployment as such. Persons who are unable to work because of illness are considered for public assistance subject to the presentation of a medical certificate. Public assistance is granted to persons (other than unemployed able-bodied men) whose incomes do not exceed $6·00 per month, in inverse ratio to their incomes. The grant of this assistance is under the control of the Central Board of Poor Relief, and the Local Poor Relief Boards which function in the districts.

Old Age Pensions are granted to persons over the age of 65 years whose monthly means do not exceed the sum of $10·00, in inverse ratio to their incomes. Provision is also made for Old Age Pensions for blind persons over the age of 40 years who are unable to earn their livelihood.

Government expenditure on social assistance, mainly public assistance and pensions, was approximately $1·4 million in 1950.

Friendly Societies have existed in Trinidad since before 1888, when the first Friendly Society Ordinance was passed. There are now over 300 societies with a membership of over 125,000, and funds totalling about $1,032,000. Membership is chiefly in the main towns. The benefits provided include sick pay, medical treatment and the provision of drugs, accouchement benefit, and funeral pay, together with a number of minor benefits. Provision to meet the expenses of burial is the chief inducement for joining these societies.

Political Structure

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is administered by the Governor with the advice of an Executive Council. The legislative body is the Legislative Council, from which the Executive Council is partly drawn.

The Legislative Council is presided over by a Speaker and consists of 26 Members, 18 of whom are elected. Five Members are nominated by the Governor and three are *ex-officio* Members (the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary). The Speaker has neither an original nor a casting vote. Election to the Council is by universal adult suffrage, but candidates are subject to income or property qualifications.

The Executive Council is the principal instrument of policy, and consists of the Governor as Chairman and nine Members. These include the three *ex-officio* Members of the Legislative Council, and one of the Nominated Members of the Legislative Council, who is appointed by the Governor. Five Members of the Executive Council are elected by the Legislative Council from among its 18 Elected Members. Their election may by revoked by a two-thirds majority in the Legislative Council.

The Governor may charge any Member of the Executive Council with the administration of any department or subject. This power he exercises in his discretion in the case of *ex-officio* Members and with the advice of the Executive Council in the case of other Members. In the case of the latter these responsibilities carry with them the style of Minister. In the present Executive Council each

Digitized by Google

of the five Elected Members have been given Ministerial responsibilities, covering the departments of Agriculture and Land, Communications and Works, Education and Social Services, Health and Local Government, and Labour, Industry and Commerce. The Nominated Member remains without portfolio.

A number of political parties have been organised but no mature party system as such exists. In the first elections held under the present Constitution in September, 1950, no single party gained a majority in the Legislative Council.

The Governor holds a reserve power which enables him, when he considers it expedient in the interest of public order, public faith and other essentials of good government, to declare as enacted a Bill which has been introduced in the Legislative Council but which that Council has failed to pass. The exercise of this power, is, however, subject to the agreement of the Executive Council, or if this is not obtained, to the prior approval, except in case of urgent necessity, of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Law Courts include a Supreme Court which has both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil matters, a Court of Criminal Appeal, and lower (Magistrates') courts and petty civil courts in different counties of the colony.

The chief local government bodies are the Municipal Councils, the County Councils, the Local Road Boards, the Local Health Authorities and the Local Poor Relief Boards. There are three Municipal Councils, namely Port of Spain, San Fernando and Arima. The Municipal Councils are the most highly organized of the local government bodies. The Councils consist of councillors elected by the burgesses and of aldermen elected by the councillors, and are presided over by Mayors. Elections are held every year for one-third of the councillors, and the mayors hold office for only one year unless re-elected. Revenue is obtained mainly from rates and taxes, and responsibilities cover water supply, public health (including inspection and control of streets), building areas and buildings, water supply and infectious diseases and the provision of scavenging services, maintenance, repair and lighting of streets, provision and maintenance of markets and abattoirs, cemeteries, public parks and playgrounds. The three municipalities have been established since last century and have had long experience in local government.

The County Councils, which are advisory bodies only, were first set up in 1946. There are seven councils, with membership varying from eight to fourteen members, depending on the number of wards in the administrative districts which they cover. They are presided over by the elected members to the Legislative Council for the respective districts. Councils remain in being for three years. The franchise is based on adult suffrage but candidates for election have to have certain property and income qualifications. The Councils receive annual votes to cover their expenses, including the travelling expenses of their members. Their purpose is to consider the needs of their respective districts and to make recommendations thereon. The matters that they can consider include housing, land settlement, provision of schools and hospitals, public health, electricity, transport, roads, recreation grounds and other public enclosures, social services and the establishment of public offices.

Local Road Boards, which derive their revenue from funds provided by the central government and rates levied by the Boards on property, are responsible for the maintenance and repair of local roads in their districts. Local Road Boards are under the control of a Central Road Board.

Local Health Authorities control urban, port and rural sanitary districts, funds being provided by the Central Government. Their powers extend to streets, building areas, housing, sanitary conditions, examination of food, water supply, infectious diseases, etc. A Central Board of Health supervises and inspects the local authorities.

The Local Poor Relief Boards, working under the supervision of a Central Poor Relief Board, administer poor relief and award old age pensions.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The law relating to companies is broadly the same as that governing companies in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act, 1929. The laws relating to bankruptcy, merchandise marks, patents and trade marks, and the sale of goods in the main reproduce the provisions of the United Kingdom laws.

Legislation to encourage the development of industries has recently been enacted. The *Income Tax (In Aid of Industry) Ordinance*, No. 12 of 1950 provides for allowances (with respect to ascertainment of chargeable income) on the capital cost of certain industrial buildings and plant; on expenditure on exploratory work by mining and oil companies; on the construction of certain works which lose their value when the minerals are worked out; on the construction of workers' dwellings; on scientific research and on purchases of patent rights. The ordinance applies to a list of industries to which the Governor-in-Council may add. The *Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance*, No. 13 of 1950, amended by No. 40 of 1950, gives power to grant pioneer manufacturers an income tax holiday of five years and exemption from customs duty on plant and equipment and other materials for constructing or altering a factory to manufacture pioneer products. Depreciation is deemed to commence the first year after the end of the tax holiday. In that year 40 per cent. of the original capital value of the plant and equipment and 10 per cent. of that of land and buildings may be written off, so that in its sixth year the pioneer industry is likely to pay little income tax. (For a list of industries declared pioneer industries see page 207.) The *Hotels (Development and Encouragement) Ordinance*, 1946, gives special concessions to persons constructing and equipping hotels.

Trade Tariffs

Ad valorem duties range in the case of British Preferential goods from 5 to 15 per cent., the usual rate being 10 per cent. The General Rate ranges from 10 to 30 per cent., in most cases being double the Preferential Rate.

Flat rate specific duties are levied on a number of goods, including certain food stuffs, alcoholic drinks and tobacco. Commodities admitted free under both tariffs include books, coal and coke, raw cocoa, rubber, raw cotton, coconuts and copra, hides, skins and agricultural tools, lime and plants, and under the Preferential Tariff practically all machinery, flour, fresh and salt fish, fruit, vegetables and fertilisers. (The import duties on flour and salt fish from Empire sources were taken off following devaluation.)

Examples of tariff rates on essential commodities were as follows as at 31st December, 1949 :—

TARIFFS

	Preferential	*General*
Flour	Free	48c. per 196 lb.
Rice	24c. per 100 lb.	96c. per 100 lb.
Salt Dried Fish	Free	48c. per lb.
Smoked and Pickled Fish	24c. per 100 lb.	72c. per 100 lb.
Pickled or Salted Pork and Beef	25c. per 100 lb.	$1 per 100 lb.
Condensed Milk (not less than eight per cent. butterfat)	13c. per 42 lb.	52c. per 42 lb.
Cement	12c. per 375 lb.	60c. per 375 lb.
Sulphate of Ammonia ..	Free	10% *ad valorem*
Timber (lumber)	$1 per 1,000 ft.	$3 per 1,000 ft.
Cotton Piece Goods ..	7½% *ad valorem*	15% *ad valorem*

There is also a surtax of 15 per cent. on the duties payable on many goods of luxury or semi-luxury types. Of the commodities in the above list, only cement is subject to surtax.

Digitized by Google

There is an export duty of $1·2 per ton on crude asphalt and $1·66 on dried asphalt. Excise duties are as follows:—

EXCISE DUTIES

Rum and Spirits	$6 per gallon at proof
Rum (for bay rum).. ..	$1·8 per gallon at proof
Beer	25c. per gallon at specific gravity 1050
Gasolene	9c. per imperial gallon
Copra Products	
edible oil	10c. per gallon
lard substitute	42c. per 100 lb.
Matches	6c. per gross of boxes (box = 60 matches or less)
Liquified Gases	
Propane and Butane ..	¾c. per lb.

Labour

The principal features of existing legislation for the protection of workers may be summarised briefly as follows :—

Trade union activity is regulated and controlled by the *Trade Unions Ordinance* and the *Trade Disputes and Protection of Property Ordinance* and amending ordinances.

The *Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance* provides machinery for voluntary arbitration of trade disputes, and also permits the Governor to institute a board of enquiry in any case where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended.

The *Labour (Minimum Wage) Ordinance* empowers the Governor to appoint advisory boards for the purpose of investigating the level of wages in any occupation and to fix minimum rates where it is desirable. The *Wages Council Ordinance* empowers the Governor-in-Council to establish wages councils with power to submit proposals for fixing statutory minimum remuneration, holidays, holiday pay, etc.

The *Workmen's Compensation Ordinance* makes provision for compensation for death or injury arising out of and in the course of employment. The Ordinance covers all workers engaged under a contract of service or apprenticeship, with the exception of casual workers, outworkers, domestic servants employed in private dwelling houses, non-manual workers whose remuneration exceeds $1,200 per annum, members of the Police Force, persons in the naval, military or air service of the Crown and persons employed (otherwise than in connection with any engine or machine) on an agricultural holding not exceeding 30 acres.

Under the *Truck Ordinance* and the *Workmen's Wages (Protection) Ordinance* wages may not be paid otherwise than in cash, nor on premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquor.

The recruiting of workers is controlled by the *Recruiting of Workers Ordinances* which fully implements the *Recruiting of Indigenous Workers Convention*, 1936, of the International Labour Office, while the *Foreign Labour Contracts Ordinance* makes provision for the protection of workers who are recruited for work in certain specified foreign countries.

The employment of women and young persons (under the age of 18) on night work in industrial undertakings is prohibited, as also is the employment of children under the age of 12 in any form of employment and under the age of 14 in industrial undertakings. The hours of opening and closing of shops are controlled.

A system of free public labour exchanges is administered by the Labour Department under the *Labour Bureau Ordinance*. The inspection of factories to ensure the maintenance of proper safety measures, health and welfare conditions in factories is carried out by a staff of inspectors under the *Factories Ordinance* of 1948.

Land Tenure

Land tenure is mainly on a freehold basis. Of the total area of the island roughly 50 per cent. is in private hands. Of the Crown lands a large proportion is either forest reserve, under oil concessions, reserved for public purposes or otherwise unsuitable for agriculture.

The disposal of Crown Lands is governed by the *Crown Lands Ordinance* and the Regulations made thereunder. In 1941 the sale of Crown Lands in fee simple was discontinued, except in exceptional cases where there are special and cogent reasons under the *Land Grants (Temporary Provisions) Regulations*, 1941. Leases are now granted with suitable covenants to ensure the proper use and development of the land. The usual terms for which leases for agricultural purposes are granted are 25 years, with an option of renewal for a further 25 years.

Transport and Communications

Internal

There are 2,273 miles of road usable by wheeled traffic, exclusive of roads in the urban areas, and 1,471 miles of bridle tracks. The main and local roads are satisfactory and well maintained. Omnibus services operate on most of the main routes. The Government Railway operates an ancillary service from the railheads to the remote corners of the island and also maintains a passenger bus service in Tobago.

The numbers of motor vehicles licenced are shown below :—

MOTOR VEHICLES

As at end of	*Private*	*Goods Vehicles*	*Tractors and Trailers*	*Hire and Rented*	*Omnibus*
1946	5,196	3,148		965	320
1948	7,473	3,498	66	1,417	259
1949	8,740	3,857	172	1,641	357
1950	9,324	4,181	269	2,278	444
1951 (June)	9,088	3,966	356	2,206	274

The Government Railway serves various parts of the Colony and has approximately 160 miles of rail connecting Port of Spain, San Fernando, Siparia, Princes Town, Rio Claro and Sangre Grande. The railway plays an important part in the transport of heavy machinery and equipment to the oil and sugar areas of the island. Some of the large sugar estates have their own railway systems.

There is a weekly coastal steamer service between Trinidad and Tobago.

Telephone communication operates throughout Trinidad and Tobago, and an up-to-date postal system provides mail services by rail and motor transport, with a daily service to outlying post offices.

The Trinidad Broadcasting Company Ltd. opened a broadcasting station in 1947. The number of licenced receiving sets in 1950 was nearly 15,000. There is a rediffusion service in Port of Spain, San Fernando and San Juan with over 10,000 subscribers ; further extension of this service is contemplated.

External

The colony is well served by steamship lines, with a large number of passenger and cargo ships calling from the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, and other parts of the world.

Harbour facilities may be described as adequate, and are available at Port of Spain, Chaguaramas, Pointe-a-Pierre, Port Fortin and La Brea. The harbour at Port of Spain has deep water wharfage facilities with five berths for loading direct to and from transit sheds. The wharf is fairly well equipped but has no heavy lift facilities. The construction of a protected wharf at Scarborough, the main port of Tobago, has begun. Safe anchorages for

Digitized by Google

ships of any size and number are available in the Gulf of Paria, which separates Trinidad from the mainland of South America on the west.

Trinidad is very well served by international airlines. The following lines operate passenger, mail and freight services through the Colony: British West Indian Airways, Pan American Airways, K.L.M. (Royal Dutch Airlines), Aerovias Brasil, Trans-Canada Airlines, British Guiana Airlines, Aviania Airlines, Linea Aeropostal Venezolana, Aerolineas Argentinas, Iberian Airlines. There are also non-scheduled aircraft which operate through Piarco Airport, which can handle heavy traffic and large aircraft.

Other external communications are maintained by Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Ltd., and by the Government wireless stations. There is a radio telephone service linking Trinidad and Tobago with other West Indian islands, with Europe, America and the Far East.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

The Colony's two staple crops are sugar and cocoa. At the beginning of the twentieth century it was realised by the planting community that neither sugar nor cocoa by themselves were suitable for all lands, and efforts were made to introduce new crops to suit conditions and soils unsuitable to either. Coconuts replaced cocoa entirely in Cedros Peninsula. Bananas, rubber, limes, citrus, coffee, nutmegs, cloves and many other crops were tried. But although soil conditions in certain districts proved favourable, falls in prices, disease, and the upward trend in labour costs limited the expansion even of those crops which were not absolute failures. The spread of "Witches Broom" has made approximately 100,000 acres unsuitable for replanting in cocoa, and these lands are generally unsuitable for cane cultivation. They comprise lands with soils that could be described as varying from very sandy to very heavy clays while the rainfall varies from 50 inches to 120 inches. No single crop can be a success under such varying conditions. Indeed, only grapefruit and oranges would seem to be capable of replacing a decaying cocoa industry and affording long-term employment for agricultural labourers. Several varieties of nut are promising but are still in the experimental stage. Yields of cloves and nutmegs are good, but labour costs make their cultivation uneconomic. Coffee is a crop with possibilities, but picking costs are high. Most of the land suited to coconuts, and much that is not so suited, has already been planted in that crop and no substantial expansion in area can be envisaged. It is clear, therefore, that the emphasis in the future must be on the resuscitation or expansion of those agricultural industries for which Trinidad is specially favoured by nature and which have hitherto been conducted with efficiency.

It has been estimated that not more than 30 per cent. of the total land area of Trinidad is suitable for agriculture, although rather more than that is under some sort of cultivation. There are, it is true, certain areas which could be reclaimed for such purposes as rice growing, but this will involve considerable initial expenditure. The main problem, therefore, is to make a more economic use of existing agricultural land by the introduction of improved methods, the practice of soil conservation, greater use of fertilisers and the provision of advisory services and credit facilities.

The livestock industry is undeveloped. The climate of Trinidad is not suited to certain types of livestock, but Tobago is thought to have better possibilities. At present most livestock are kept by small farmers who also grow crops, although few of them can claim to practice a system of mixed farming since little manure is applied to the land. Many of the dairy cattle kept by these small farmers are poorly bred and fed. Such poor methods make the cost of fresh milk so high that under present conditions little expansion of demand is likely. However, efforts are being made to expand and improve the livestock industry. The Department of Agriculture has introduced improved breeds which are available for stud service at low fees. The Cocoa Board has recently declared its willingness to give assistance in the purchase and housing of cattle and the replacement of cocoa on certain lands by fodder crops. The production of stock foods has recently been declared a pioneer industry.

There is thought to be scope for the expansion of pig-raising, based partly on the use of waste products as feeding stuffs. A large growth in the production of poultry and eggs occurred during the war, but further expansion has been impeded by the high cost of feeding stuffs.

The output of livestock products in 1950 is estimated to have been as follows: beef and veal, 734 short tons; mutton and lamb, 42 short tons; pork, bacon and ham, 558 short tons; poultry (dressed weight), 3,120 short tons; milk, 1½ million gallons; eggs, 21 million.

Local Food Products

The production of local foodstuffs is thought to have increased considerably compared with pre-war, although the colony is largely dependent on imports for its principal foodstuffs. Some 40,000 acres are thought to be under vegetables, pulses, rice, root crops and fruits other than citrus. Coconuts are largely grown for the production of edible fats and oils, most of which are consumed locally, and coffee is grown on a small scale for both home consumption and export.

Rice

Rice is the food crop an increase in the production of which is most to be desired. In 1938, 10,000 acres were under cultivation, producing 6,000 tons of clean milled rice of a value of $268,000. It is estimated that the area has now doubled, and production is approximately 12,000 tons of clean milled rice, an average of 2,000 lb. of paddy per acre. This figure is a conservative estimate, and is probably on the low side. Compared with the traditional rice growing areas, yields obtained in Trinidad are very good. Costs of production, however, are comparatively high.

Before the war the Colony imported between 18,000 and 19,000 tons of rice annually, partly from British Guiana and partly from Asian sources. British Guiana contracted in 1947 to supply Trinidad with 15,000 tons of rice annually, but this has not been reached and has had to be supplemented from other sources (see Appendix, page 274).

The amount available from all sources for consumption in 1938 was 115 lb. per head, but in 1948 it was only 89 lb. per head, so that rice had to be rationed. To reach the pre-war level of consumption per head the present 24,000 tons available would need to be increased to 30,000 tons. There is therefore scope for increasing local production, but the question of lowering existing production costs will have to be tackled. Experimental work carried out by the Agricultural Department has shown that far higher yields can be achieved by better agricultural practices, and there is scope for increased efficiency in milling. A Committee was appointed early in 1949 to recommend ways of stimulating production. (See *Report of Rice Committee of Trinidad and Tobago*, Council Paper No. 2 of 1950.)

Coconuts

The production of coconuts has been carried out for a great number of years, mainly in the Cedros-Icacos district, Mayaro, Guayaguayare, the North East Coastal area, and the alluvial flats of the small bays along the coast. Coconuts are used mainly for the production of edible and other fats, principally for home consumption.

Under the Oils and Fats Agreement made in Barbados in 1947, coconuts or coconut products may not be exported outside the Caribbean area (see Appendix, page 274). The colony's export trade has therefore been limited to supplying part of the needs of Barbados and the Windward Islands with manufactured products and Jamaica with coconut oil.

Digitized by Google

Copra production over a representative number of years has been as follows :—

1939	30,920,854 lb.
1943	21,452,131 „
1944	29,312,640 „
1946	39,617,401 „
1948	27,646,080 „
1949	35,393,920 „
1950	30,480,000 „

For quantities of edible oil, margarine, lard compound, laundry soap manufactured, see page 206.

Cash Crops

The principal cash crops are sugar, cocoa, and citrus. Minor cash crops grown mainly or partly for export include coffee, bananas and tonka beans.

Sugar

This is the colony's principal crop; sugar and its by-products have represented from 10–15 per cent. of the colony's total domestic exports in recent years.

Approximately two-thirds of the cane is produced on the estates owned by nine companies, and the remainder by the 10–11,000 peasant farmers, nearly half of whom produce under 10 tons of cane per year. The companies purchase the farmers' canes at a price based on a statutory formula, and process it in their factories together with cane from their own estates. Refining, except on a limited scale for local consumption, is not carried out in Trinidad, sugar being exported in the usual grey crystal form of 96° polarisation. The two largest companies, both of which are registered in the United Kingdom, manufacture 80 per cent. of the island's sugar and own some 60 per cent. of the total land owned by all sugar estates. Sugar production increased from an average of around 56,000 tons per year in the period 1921–25 to 133,000 tons in 1934–38. After the severe dislocation of the industry during the war years, when production fell to half of the immediate pre-war level, a peak level of 159,000 tons was achieved in 1949.

Production of cane and of sugar for a series of years and prices paid to farmers were as follows :—

SUGAR PRODUCTION

	Sugar tons	*Cane 000 tons*		*Price per ton cane paid to farmers*
		Estates	*Farmers*	
				$
1938	133,551	720·8	571·1	2·70
1939	128,455	758·8	388·5	2·89
1940	92,192	505·9	289·3	3·35
1941	131,609	684·1	528·5	3·73
1942	104,367	535·0	449·4	4·50
1943	70,920	383·4	333·4	4·80
1944	74,262	460·6	228·2	5·50
1945	76,347	490·4	234·9	5·84
1946	109,603	652·6	350·3	6·77
1947	110,068	737·6	322·1	6·52
1948	115,941	752·7	403·7	7·25
1949	158,890	930·1	508·1	7·71
1950	146,508	885·8	516·1	7·77
1951	140,668	945·6	487·1	...

... Not available.

The total area under cane on the estates is around 40,000 acres, and farmers' canes are thought to occupy 42,000 acres. The output from the estates is approximately twice that of farmers from an almost similar area under cane. However, there are no figures showing average yield per acre reaped in the case of farmers, so that no proper comparison can be made. The average yields per acre reaped taken over all estates were :—

Year	*Estates Tons cane per reaped acre*
1936–9	25·22
1940–3	19·12
1944	20·38
1945	19·83
1946	25·28
1947	24·80
1948	26·23
1949	31·14
1950	28·28
1951	33·44

The average number of acres reaped by estates was 31,322 in 1950 compared with 30,500 for the years 1936–39 inclusive. From a sample survey of cane farmers renting some 16,000 acres of estate lands in 1948, average yield was found to be 18·3 tons cane per acre, but it is not known how representative this would be of cane farmers yields as a whole. The higher yields of the estates compared with farmers have been obtained by more extensive use of fertilisers, improved drainage, less use of ratoon crops and the better tillage and land preparation resulting from mechanisation. Ploughing on the estates is entirely mechanised, drainage and furrowing partly mechanised and mechanised weeding is being extended.

Many of the cane farmers' holdings are extremely small. It is estimated that over 80 per cent. of farmers' canes is delivered by farmers producing under 50 tons of cane a year, i.e., they probably had an acreage of something under five acres. Many of the holdings too are scattered in separate parcels. Many of the cane farmers supplement their incomes in other ways, often by working on the estates. A survey of one cane-growing district in 1943 showed that nearly 80 per cent. of cane farmers' net income was derived from wage-employment. There is very little use of mechanical equipment by cane farmers. In contrast to the estates very little cultivation is done before planting. There would appear to be scope for improving the efficiency of cane farming, but mechanisation is difficult owing to the difficulty of providing the capital involved and to the small size and scattered nature of many of the holdings.

The nine factories have a milling capacity exceeding 1½ million tons cane for a crop period of 120 days, but have rarely worked to full capacity. Factory replacements are planned to continue until a capacity of 200,000 tons of sugar is reached. The two largest factories have capacities of 53,000 and 34,000 tons of sugar, and the rest vary from around 20,000 to as low as 1,000 tons. The number of tons of cane required to produce one ton of sugar for a series of years has been :—

Year	*Tons cane per ton sugar*
1936–42	9·17
1946	9·12
1947	9·62
1948	9·97
1949	9·05
1950	9·57
1951	10·19

The rise in the ratio in 1947 and 1948 was due partly to war-time dislocation, and partly to the introduction of cane varieties which give larger yields of cane per acre but have a lower sugar content. Of the cost of producing sugar, roughly 65–70 per cent. is represented by the cost of growing, collecting and transporting the cane.

The numbers employed in the industry as a whole are difficult to assess owing to the nature of the industry. Many work for wages and also grow their own crops. It was estimated before the war that some 34,000 workers were employed in the industry, although never as many as that at any one time; about 25,000 were employed in the crop season and 21,000 out of crop. There was in fact an appreciable surplus of labour moving in and out of the industry.

Digitized by Google

The *average* numbers employed by the *sugar companies* in field and factory in the crop season in recent years have been :—

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
18,300	19,200	17,800	19,323	18,929

The above figures exclude employees of cane farmers, whose numbers are not known.

The total wages paid by the companies were :—

SUGAR INDUSTRY—WAGES PAID

	Factory	*Field*	*Total*
	$	$	$
1946	1,403,216	3,128,925	4,532,142
1947	1,667,490	3,293,126	4,960,617
1948	1,883,437	1,540,401	5,423,838

Wage rates vary greatly in the industry. Field work is paid by the task the nature of which and the payment for which differ on different estates.

The number of hours worked per day (on piece work) and days per week also vary. A sample survey in 1948 for selected fortnights showed the following results :—

	Numbers Employed	
	North	*South*
In crop ..	3,033	2,193
Out of crop	4,995	2,891
	Days worked per fortnight	
	North	*South*
In crop ..	6·7	6·9
Out of crop	6·6	6·8
	Earnings per day	
	North	*South*
In crop ..	1·46	1·56
Out of crop	1·38	1·08

All sugar exported since 1940 has been purchased by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food (for details of the contracts see Appendix, page 273).

SUGAR EXPORTS

Year	*Quantity Tons*	*Value $000*
1940	77,315	4,309
1941	108,313	6,705
1942	84,418	5,297
1943	54,422	3,563
1944	55,339	4,104
1945	59,368	4,407
1946	87,067	6,594
1947	89,664	8,111
1948	95,145	12,273
1949	138,712	17,752
1950	123,552	17,901

A Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Soulbury was appointed to " enquire into and report on the organization of the sugar industry with particular reference to means of production, wages, structure and working conditions and to make recommendations ". The Commission reported in 1949, and made various recommendations with regard to prices for farmers' canes, use of the special funds, the standardisation of wage rates in the industry, revision of the Cost of Living Index, the establishment of wages councils, and other matters.

Cocoa

Cocoa was formerly Trinidad's most important agricultural export and even now ranks next to sugar. Production has, however, been declining for many years, and especially rapidly since 1939, due to low prices, the senility of the trees, disease and loss of soil fertility. Nevertheless there has been some recovery recently as a result of good prices and of rehabilitation measures.

Exports for a series of years are shown below :—

COCOA EXPORTS

Year	*Quantity*	*Value*
	million lb.	$000
1938	42·4	2,369
1943	8·0	971
1944	10·6	1,412
1945	7·7	1,080
1946	6·6	1,172
1947	9·0	3,205
1948	18·3	8,353
1949	12·8	4,519
1950	16·2	8,361

To arrest the decline in production the Government has undertaken a rehabilitation programme which is administered by the Cocoa Board. Assistance has taken the form of grants for replanting, the provision of seedlings and, in areas considered unsuitable for cocoa, and encouragement of alternative crops. Heavy-bearing clones with a high disease resistance have been developed at the nurseries for distribution to growers. Some 1,800 acres of cocoa land had been rehabilitated by the end of 1950. The Cocoa Board derives its revenue from the proceeds of special taxation and to a cess.

Citrus

The Trinidad soil and climate are highly suitable for citrus cultivation. Trinidad has one great advantage in that a large percentage of its fruit can be marketed at a period when the main crops of Florida and Palestine are coming to an end and the crops of the southern hemisphere, such as South Africa and Brazil, are not yet in the market.

There has been considerable expansion of the industry as compared with pre-war, and exports, particularly in the form of citrus juices, are growing rapidly. Grapefruit is the most important crop, but further expansion of orange production is expected as a result of the demand for welfare juices by the United Kingdom Ministry of Food. Much of the land considered unsuitable for cocoa rehabilitation is being turned over to citrus growing, and financial assistance is being provided by the Government for this purpose. The lime industry, however, continues to decline, mainly due to the premature dying-out of trees, the cause of which remains undiagnosed.

The Co-operative Citrus Growers Association was formed in 1932. Legislation was enacted to make this association the only legitimate body for exporting grapefruit, with a view to ensuring that only the best quality produced in the island would find its way to established markets.

The following table illustrates the post-war growth in citrus exports :—

CITRUS EXPORTS

	Domestic Exports including Ships' Stores													
	Grapefruit		*Grapefruit Juice*		*Oranges*		*Orange Juice*		*Limes*		*Raw Lime Juice*		*Other*	
	cwts. (000)	$ (000)	gals. (000)	$ (000)	cwts. (000)	$ (000)	gals. (000)	$ (000)	cwts. (000)	$ (000)	gals. (000)	$ (000)	gals. (000)	$ (000)
1938	56·5	318·2	156·9	76·6	15·3	26·9	—	—	1·47	8·5	74·7	22·4	2·6	1·2
1939	15·9	71·5	150·8	61·5	5·7	10·8	—	—	0·71	2·9	61·6	18·7	—	—
1946	2·8	12·1	451·7	426·3	13·1	62·3	—	—	0·07	0·6	83·6	64·8	7·8	10·9
1947	57·0	366·4	473·6	478·0	16·1	78·0	0·3	0·7	0·04	0·5	61·7	44·3	6·3	5·6
1948	149·8	930·6	648·0	747·4	43·4	287·7	3·3	5·0	0·3	1·6	9·1	5·5	88·6	60·5
1949	55·2	323·2	488·9	566·6	13·6	83·7	0·9	1·6	0·05	0·7	51·6	32·7	25·3	21·2
1950	96·6	580·5	1,005·2	1,279·5	31·3	185·5	18·3	28·8	0·05	0·8	59·0	33·5	†	†

† Not available.

Digitized by Google

Other Crops

There has been some increase recently in the exports of bananas, most of which go to the United States of America. Approximately 72,000 stems valued at around $163,000 were exported in 1950. Tonka bean exports in the same year were about 190,000 lb. valued at around $225,000, and raw coffee exports some 14,000 cwt., worth approximately $860,000. There are also small exports of fresh vegetables, mostly to other West Indian islands.

Forestry

Much of the land area of the Colony is covered with good though mixed tropical forest, containing many useful species (Balata, Cedar, Cypre, Balsa, Crappe, Mora, Galba and Jereton among others). Forestry is primarily a public service carried out almost entirely by the Government Forest Department. During the development of the Colony, the clearing of large areas for cultivation and the destruction of vegetation by fire on other lands have resulted in widespread sheet-erosion of soil, and in reduced water absorption. The frequency and extent of destructive floods have emphasised the need for the protection of the remaining vegetation as a cover to the mountains, hills and water-sheds. The complementary function of the Forest Department is to manage the forests so that their economic value may be improved, and a regulated supply of timber, firewood and minor produce maintained. The welfare of the community, and in particular the comfort of the peasants and the poorer townsfolk, depend to a considerable extent on a steady supply of cheap and satisfactory forest products.

A general statement of forest policy was formulated in 1942 and formally adopted. The policy may be summarised as follows :—

(*a*) The permanent reservation by the Crown of suitably situated areas of forest of a total acreage sufficient to supply the benefits necessary for the welfare of the community—indirect benefits in the form of the maintenance of climatic conditions for agricultural crops, preservation of water supply, prevention of erosion and flooding, etc., and direct benefits in the form of the supply of forest produce.

(*b*) The management of the reserved forests in such a way as to place the utilisation of their products on the basis of a sustained yield, together with such improvement of their growing stock as will enable the Colony eventually to become self-supporting in lumber.

(*c*) The encouragement of the fullest possible utilisation of the products of the forests, subject to the requirements of forest management, and of the most economic utilisation of imported timber.

(*d*) The conduct of organised research on all branches and aspects of tropical forestry.

(*e*) The education and training of the subordinate forest staff, and the education of all classes of the community in an understanding of the benefits and value of scientific forestry.

(*f*) The encouragement of, and assistance to, private forestry.

(*g*) Co-operation with all other land interests in the evolution of a sound land policy, leading to optimum land allocation and usage, and in all projects for soil conservation and prevention of erosion, and in reclamation work on deteriorated lands.

Approximately 617,900 acres are under forest, of which 203,302 have already been permanently reserved for forestry. It is expected that finally some 22 per cent. of the colony will be under forest reserve. A large part of the total forest area is inaccessible, and is therefore not exploitable forest.

There are approximately 6,400 acres of teak plantations; the remainder of the forest is mora and mixed forest.

Production of forest produce from Crown forests for the years 1948 to 1950 was as follows :—

CROWN FORESTS—PRODUCTION

	1948	1949	1950
	cu. ft.	cu. ft.	cu. ft.
(*a*) Logs (true volume) ..	2,470,108	2,785,000	3,328,215
(*b*) Corduroy	179,606	177,800	117,568
(*c*) Firewood and charcoal	2,175,712	2,064,500	1,907,949
	4,825,426	5,027,300	5,353,735

The volume of wood cut in the Crown forests for various purposes falls far short of the volume which they could provide annually in perpetuity under proper management. Nevertheless such annual cuts put a great strain on the blocks of forest which now happen to be accessible and necessitate the opening of further areas to be worked in perennial rotation.

The output is not sufficient to supply the needs of the Colony, and so large imports of timber are necessary. During the war, however, the population unwillingly bought home-grown timber for a growing number of purposes, as the importation of timber was reduced by shortage of supplies and shipping difficulties. It was found that the local timber was more satisfactory than had been expected and people have become accustomed to its use. The amount of logs cut from local forests increased from 684,000 cubic feet in 1938 to 2,785,000 cubic feet in 1949. It is expected that when consumers and merchants realise the economies and benefits of conversion with bandsaws and of seasoning before use, the demand will rise even more rapidly. At present, logs are wastefully and inaccurately cut with inserted tooth circular saws, and seasoning is seldom started and rarely completed as most timber is cut for order.

Timber is used in the round for the building of rural houses. It is made into matches in the match factory in Port of Spain, is used in the local box-making industry, and converted into boards, planks and scantlings in 62 small saw mills. It is also sawn and hewn into railway sleepers. With timber seasoning and with the installation of modern sawmilling machinery to improve the capacity and output of the sawmill industry, there is no reason to doubt that Trinidad can supply a larger portion of its requirements of timber for construction, furniture and other purposes.

Fisheries

The Colony is a large importer of dried, salted and pickled fish. Before the war very little official attention had been paid to fisheries, and the West Indian Royal Commission of 1938–39 recommended an immediate expert enquiry into the possibilities of the fishing industry in the West Indies. In 1941 a grant was provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act towards the cost of fishery investigations, and by the end of 1945 Dr. Brown, Director of Fishery Investigations in the West Indies, had reported on fisheries in every part of the British West Indies. The recommendations of Dr. Brown were adopted by the Trinidad Government, and in 1947 the Fisheries Division of the Department of Agriculture was established to work on the improvement of fishing technique. A launch was acquired and fitted out for investigation and demonstration work.

Demonstrations have been made of the use of imported types of gear, and a certain amount of extension work is being carried out amongst fishermen. Efforts are being made to encourage commercial shark fishing and to promote the marketing of shark products. Legislation has been introduced to prohibit the use of certain wasteful fishing methods.

The total figures of production are not available, as the bulk of the landings do not pass through recognised markets. The amount of fish caught is generally not sufficient for local requirements, and so fishermen have no difficulty of disposing of their catch. The quantities

Digitized by Google

of fish handled by the two principal fish markets in 1950 were: Port of Spain 2,440,587 lb., San Fernando, 1,069,971 lb.

An appreciable increase in the use of power-driven units (outboard and small inboard engines) has taken place, and there has been constant improvement in design of fishing craft and type of gear used.

Five fishermen's associations are in operation—at Toco, Sans Souci, Grand Riviere, Cumana and Matelot. The depots at these places are wholly operated by the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Minerals

The only mineral resources of economic importance in the Colony are crude petroleum and natural gas, natural asphalt, building stone and sand.

Petroleum

Approximately 89 per cent. of the total area of the colony is covered by oil mining and exploration leases. Although some of the land is used for other purposes, about three-quarters of crude oil now comes from land under Crown leases, and the remainder from leases the rights of which are privately owned. Mining leases are issued for a period of 30 years. No working obligation is imposed, but a head rent is charged on all leases offset against royalty paid on production.

Petroleum products represent some three-quarters of the value of total exports from Trinidad. There are 11 companies engaged in drilling, most of them United Kingdom companies. The greater part of the total, however, is produced by four companies. There are two refineries, one owned by Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited and the other by the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited. These refine practically the whole of the indigenous oil and also foreign crudes imported from South America. The companies also have their own producing wells. One of the refineries is at present modernising its plant by the installation of a catalytic cracking unit which will enable it to make a wider range of products. As shown in the following table the main product of the refineries is fuel oil :—

OUTPUT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
1949

	000 tons		*000 tons*
Fuel oil ..	2,414·6	Aviation Spirit	129·4
Gas and Diesel Oil	581·6	Bitumen ..	54·8
Motor Spirit ..	580·5	Other finished products ..	111·4
Vaporising Oil	195·0		

Of the refined products 95 per cent. are exported. (For volume and value of exports see page 216.) Most of the fuel oil and motor spirit goes to the United Kingdom, but there is also a very large bunker trade. A small amount of crude oil is exported to Canada.

Natural gas is also produced, half of the output being used in the steam plants on the fields or in the refineries.

The production of crude oil has remained practically stationary since it reached a peak in 1940, and increasing amounts of foreign crudes have had to be imported. Production, imports of foreign crudes and exports of refined products since 1940 are shown below :—

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Indigenous Production	*Imported Crudes*	*Exports of Refined Products*
	million barrels	million barrels	million barrels
1940	22·1	0·4	19·9
1941	20·4	0·2	15·7
1942	21·9	0·08	19·1
1943	21·3	—	15·8
1944	21·5	1·1	19·7
1945	21·0	2·2	20·6
1946	20·1	2·9	20·2
1947	20·4	5·9	22·0
1948	20·4	8·8	24·5
1949	20·6	11·3	27·4
1950	20·6	11·2	26·6

The average output per producing well reached a maximum in 1940 of 41 barrels per day, but has since fallen each year, and in 1949 was only 27 barrels. The decline has been due to a reduction of the ratio of flowing to artificial lift wells and to a fall in production per flowing well. The best zones of the proved areas were exploited continuously during the war, and reserves have been depleted. Proved reserves are estimated at 36 million tons, so that at the present rate of three million tons per year these will be exhausted in 12 years. The continued production of local crudes after that will therefore depend on the location of new reserves by deep drilling and the exploration of marine areas. Several companies are at present engaged in exploratory deep drilling, on which $19·5 million was spent between 1945 and 1949. Marine concessions have also been granted, and operations were expected to begin in 1952. One of the refining companies was granted a permit in 1949 to import free of duty for 25 years crude oil for refining in such quantities as might be necessary to maintain the company's plant at full capacity. The permit is subject to an undertaking by the company to make efforts to maintain and increase indigenous oil production.

The oil industry is a very important source of revenue to the Trinidad Government. Over one-third of total Government revenue in 1949 was derived from direct taxes paid by the industry. The royalties payable to the government are at the rate of 10–12½ per cent. of the value of crude oil produced, value being taken as the prevailing West Texas price with suitable freight differentials from field to deepwater. The rate is reviewed every three years.

The estimated disbursements by the oil companies in the colony, covering local expenses and contributions to government revenue, are shown below :—

DISBURSEMENTS BY OIL COMPANIES

	1939	1948	1949	1950
	$m.	$m.	$m.	$m.
Payment to Employees	6·8	16·2	17·1	18·8
Payments to Contractors	1·4	3·5	4·4	6·1
Local Purchases of Material	2·8	3·9	4·3	3·9
Other local Expenditure	2·9	3·8	7·1	8·5
	13·9	27·4	32·9	37·3
Contribution to Government Revenues				
Customs	0·6	0·8	*1·3	1·1
Income Tax	0·8	7·4	13·3	8·7
Royalties	1·0	4·0	3·6	5·9
Other	0·4	1·0	1·3	1·2
	2·8	13·2	19·5	16·9

* Includes small amount of excise levied since devaluation on gasoline used by the companies for their own purposes.

The average number employed in the industry by the companies and contractors has shown little change in the last decade :—

EMPLOYMENT IN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
13,074	13,493	14,721	15,590	13,938	14,121
1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
13,796	14,651	13,770	13,541	15,600	16,300

Wages paid are the highest in the colony. Both employers and employees are strongly organised and wage rates are determined by collective bargaining. Usually an agreement is signed for a number of years.

Digitized by Google

The oil prices obtained by Trinidad producers rose by 43 per cent. following devaluation, but wages and costs of materials also increased. The rise in oil prices resulted in a substantial increase in profits and also in the proceeds obtained by the government from income tax and royalty payments.

Asphalt

Natural asphalt is mined by surface drilling on a deposit covering about 120 acres. The reserve is between 20 and 30 million tons. The Pitch Lake, as the deposit is called, has been worked for many decades. It is not sufficient to support a large scale industry, but the extraction of asphalt and its preparation for shipment occupies some 600–700 workers who enjoy the same comparatively good wage rates and good working conditions as the oilfield workers. The lake is situated in the oilfield area. The Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company Limited operates the lake on a lease from the Crown which has been extended for a period of 30 years as from 1956. Royalty and export duty under the lease are as follows :—

	Royalty per ton	*Duty per ton*
Crude asphalt ..	60 cents	120 cents
Dried asphalt ..	84 cents	166 cents

The lease provides for a guaranteed minimum payment of $115,200 per annum.

The quantities of asphalt produced and exported in recent years have been :—

ASPHALT—PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS

	1947	1948	1949	1950
	000 tons			
Production :				
Removed by Public Works Department ..	25·3	25·3	46·4	40·6
Removed by Company	62·0	103·6	98·7	92·3
Total Production ..	87·3	128·9	145·1	132·9
Exports :				
Crude	0·3	—	—	—
Dried	32·4	41·9	47·4	46·7
Cement	25·4	49·4	37·3	23·4
	58·1	91·3	84·7	70·1

— = negligible.

The company concerned has recently commenced the modernisation of its equipment, but the industry is unlikely to expand greatly owing to competition from petroleum bitumens.

Building Stone and Sand

There is a large amount of limestone in the Northern Range of the Colony of which a certain amount is worked for building stone, road metal, concrete mixing, etc. Proposals to establish a cement industry were under consideration in 1951.

There exist small deposits of white sand of a quality suitable for glass making. A plant has recently been set up to manufacture glass bottles.

No underground mining is carried on in the Colony.

Manufactures

The manufacturing industries of the Colony may be classified into those making mainly for export and those making mainly for home consumption. The former include the traditional processing industries (sugar and rum), angostura bitters, matches, and newer industries such as the manufacture of time-recording instruments. Products made mainly for home consumption include aerated waters, beer, biscuits, confectionery, edible oils and fats, cigarettes, shirts, pyjamas and other clothing, candles, pharmaceutical products, clay and concrete products, boxes, stockfeed, and glassware.

The following table shows the approximate numbers employed and output in certain manufacturing industries. It does not cover all secondary industries or all firms in an industry.

REFINERIES AND MANUFACTURES

	No. of Factories	*No. Employed*	*Quantity of Output*	*Value of Output*
Food :				$
Sugar	9	4,700	146,500 tons	21,213,200
Edible oil	3	290	1,479,600 gals.	3,107,200
Lard compound ..			1,369,100 lb.	479,200
Margarine			338,600 lb.	128,700
Butter substitute ..			304,700 lb.	111,200
Rice	231	236	not available	not available
Canning (fruit juice from fresh grape fruit)	1	230	515,400 cases	1,876,600
Fruit preserves	11	12	not available	not available
Lime juice	5	35	75,000 gals.	50,000
Lime oil			20,000 gals.	140,000
Distilleries (rum) ..	5	191	2,120,200 proof gals.	3,752,800
Breweries	2	365	294,800 proof gals. std. gravity	707,500
Aerated water	17	198	3,000,000 gals.	2,500,000
Metal Works :				
General Engineering ..	18	750	not available	not available
Other Industries :				
Carbon Dioxide ..	1	25	1,600,000 lb.	not available
Acetylene and Oxygen ..	1	22	not available	not available
Matches	1	146	274,500 gross small boxes	313,900
Bricks and Tiles ..	2	201	36,000	not available
Concrete products ..	7	120	not available	not available
Cigarettes	1	280	1,223,500 lb.	1,208,600
Printing	2	650	not available	not available
Laundry Soap	18	140	8,690,300 lb.	1,390,500
Sawmilling	59	530	not available	not available

Digitized by Google

Since the war there has been a considerable expansion of the traditional secondary industries, and a number of new industries have been established.

The Government has adopted a policy of active encouragement of secondary industries with the object of providing employment for a growing population, in view of the need to lessen dependence on the oil industry, and the restrictions imposed on the expansion of sugar production. Among the measures taken are income tax and customs duties reliefs (see page 199). Pioneer industries are given a five years' tax holiday from income tax and import duties, as well as substantial depreciation allowances after that.

The industries declared pioneer industries up to the end of June, 1951, were as follows :—

Pioneer Manufacturing Process	*No. of Manufacturers declared as pioneers*
Glass making	1
Brewing	2
Time recording instruments	1
Stapled boxes	1
Cardboard boxes	2
Processing of torchons	1
Spinning, weaving, etc., of textiles	1
Knitting of textiles	1
Stock feeds	1
Moulded industrial rubber and plastic goods	1
Electro-plating	—
Boots, shoes and handbags	—
Ladies' lingerie and beachwear	—
Plastics	—
Sawmilling	—
Steel reinforcing rods	—

In 1948 the Government set up an Economic Advisory Board to explore the possibilities of establishing new secondary industries, and the Five Year Economic Programme includes certain monies to be used for loans to small industrial undertakings. Action has been taken to interest prospective investors abroad, and a booklet entitled " Opportunity for Industry " sets out a number of facts about the colony of interest to potential investors.

Village Industries

Numerous minor industries and crafts are conducted in small workshops and in the homes of workers. These include :—

Basketry	Dressmaking	Preserves (fruits,
Boots and shoes	Engraving	chutneys, sauces,
Brooms and Brush	Jewellery	jams, jellies, etc.)
making	Pottery	Hats, Belts
Charcoal burning	Tinware repair	Woodwork
Coconut fibre mats		

Most of the goods made are sold and consumed locally.

The raw materials used in village industries include sisal, banana and other straw, jippi-jappa, coconut bough fibre, rush, khus-khus grass, and screwpine. There is some boat building in fishing villages.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

The tourist trade has considerable possibilities owing to the comparatively close proximity of the Colony to the United States of America, Canada, Central and South America. Access to the island is easy as it is well served by air as well as sea. It is a convenient step on various routes both from north to south and from east to west. The Colony has " local colour ", fine scenery and bathing beaches and the roads and vehicles offer comfortable transport.

It is, however, considered that the Colony could derive much larger benefit that at present from dollar tourist sources if comfort and amenities on the bathing beaches and hotel accommodation were improved. The Government set up in 1948 a Committee " to consider ways and means of stimulating the Colony's tourist trade ", and is doing all in its power to implement the Committee's recommendations which, *inter alia*, call for the immediate development of Maracas Bay on the north coast of the Colony and the expansion and modernisation of hotel accommodation.

Distributive Trade

Both the wholesale and the retail trades are organised on a highly competitive basis. The more important wholesalers are direct importers in bulk with well-established connections in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. In the case of branded goods most overseas producers sell through local wholesalers, who have the sole right to buy and sell the particular goods in the territory allotted to them.

The retail trade is conspicuous for its large number of small outlets. There are not more than a handful of retailing outlets which can be said to be large in relation to the size of the market.

Professions

For a detailed list of names of doctors, dentists, druggists, nurses, see the West Indies Year Book, and the " Guardian " Guide and Classified Directory.

Co-operative Movement

Co-operative Societies operated until 1950 under the following legislation :—

(*a*) The *Agricultural Co-operative Societies Ordinance*, Ch. 23 No. 3.
(*b*) The *Agricultural Credit Societies Ordinance*, Ch. 23 No. 4.
(*c*) The *Credit Union Societies Ordinance*, 1945.

Agricultural Co-operative Societies

These are mostly producers' marketing and processing societies, of which the most important is the Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association. Details of these societies in 1950 were :—

AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Type	*Number*	*Members*	*Working Capital*
			$
Producers' Marketing and Processing Societies	6	1,457	586,616·8
Producers' Marketing Societies	2	110	3,507·0
Advisory Bodies	2	125	566·7
	10	1,692	590,690·5

Loans are made by the Agricultural Credit Bank to the societies.

Agricultural Credit Societies

These societies make loans to farmers for the purchase of agricultural supplies, seed and fertilisers, and help with payment of seasonal labour costs. Their powers under the Ordinance Ch. 23 No. 4 are limited to the giving of short-term credit for the crop season. Some are financed by the Agricultural Credit Bank and some by sugar companies. The Agricultural Credit Bank lends to the societies at 3 per cent., and they re-lend at 7 per cent.

Recent membership, etc., has been :—

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

	No. of Societies	*Members*	*Amount lent by Agriculture Credit Bank and by Sugar Cos.*
			$
1949-50	164	6,049	469,827
1950-51	170	6,272	578,200
1951-52 (est.)	219	8,573	750,000

Digitized by Google

Credit Union Societies

These societies are designed to promote saving and enable credit to be obtained at reasonable rates. Details for recent years are :—

	Number	*Membership*
1948 ..	59	5,484
1949 ..	71	5,597
1951 (est.) ..	110	7,500

A Co-operative Department was set up by the Government in 1949, and it has been proposed to pass a *Co-operative Societies Ordinance* and a *Credit Union Ordinance* which would give co-operative societies much wider powers to extend their activities than they have at present.

Employment and Labour Supply

The only detailed breakdown of the distribution of employment by industry is that given in the Census of 1946 (see page 197). Very few regular employment series are published for Trinidad. There are some rather inadequate statistics for employment in the oil and sugar industries (see section on production, pages 202–3 and 205) and attempts are also being made to collect statistics on employment in manufacturing industries (see page 206) but these have certain shortcomings and are not available on a comparable basis from year to year. A rough estimate of the distribution of employment in the main industries in 1950 is given below. (Figures given here are not necessarily comparable with those given in the production section for certain industries, as the industries may not be defined in the same way.)

EMPLOYMENT—1950

Sugar (employment by companies)	peak	21,434
	trough	15,617
Cocoa, coconuts, citrus and other		16,000
Oil		16,300
Asphalt		700
Waterfront		1,100
Government (excluding port services)		8,800
United States bases		716
Other industries and services ..		10,000 (Census 1946)
Distribution		7,000 based on
Domestic Service		10,000 1946 Census

An Ordinance of 1950 gives greater powers to collect employment statistics.

Wages and earnings in the sugar industry vary considerably according to district, and are assessed in many different ways. Basic rates per task differ, tasks themselves are not standardised, and some estates give attendance and other allowances while others do not.

Field work is mainly paid on a task basis. In 1949 cane cutters in the north were paid by the task at 52 cents, plus a war bonus of 15 cents. In the south, men doing similar work received 4–18 cents per chain of 500 sq. ft., plus a war bonus of 15 cents on every basic $1·10 earned. Other tasks—cutlassing, carting, loading, weeding, etc.—showed similar variations. A task can normally be completed in 2½ to 3 hours. The number of hours worked depends on the availability of work and on the inclination of the worker, so that average daily earnings vary considerably.

Some field workers are paid on a time basis. Rates for tractor drivers, for example, ranged from $1·9–$3·63 in the north to $2·15–$2·35 in the south, for a week of 48 hours.

In 1950 all workers in the industry received an increase of 12½ per cent. on 1949 fortnightly earnings, and in 1951 a further increase of 12½ per cent., again on 1949 earnings.

On cocoa cultivations, pickers received $1·5–$3·0 per task of 6–7 hours and labourers were paid on a time basis of $1·2–$1·3 for a 6½–7-hour day in 1950. On coconut plantations pickers received from $2·0–$3·0 for a task of 5–6 hours and $1·8–$2·7 for cracking. Citrus pickers received from $1·5–$2·0 for 6–7 hours work and coffee pickers $0·8–$1·5. Rates for women in agricultural work vary from slightly under to slightly over 50 per cent of the men's rate.

Wage rates in the oil industry ranged from 32–48 cents an hour for skilled workers, 30–32 cents for semi-skilled and 27–30 for unskilled, plus a cost of living allowance of six cents an hour. A three years' agreement was signed in 1950. A bonus of half a cent per hour is given for every five points rise in the official cost of living index. Cost of living bonuses are also in operation for stevedores and dockers and government industrial workers. The latter received $2·50–$3·67 (skilled rates), $2·24–$2·83 (semi-skilled) and $2·03–$2·37 (unskilled) for an eight-hour day.

Wages and conditions in the principal industries are governed by collective agreements. In the oil industry joint consultative committees have been set up in each field by the respective companies to allow for regular consultation between representatives of employers and employees on matters of local interest. Each company also observes a disputes procedure adapted to prevailing conditions. Matters which have not been settled by company machinery are referred to an industry-wide joint conciliation board consisting of not more than five representatives of the Oilfields Employers' Association and a similar number of representatives of the workers' union, with the Industrial Adviser as chairman. The joint conciliation board also deals with questions arising on all matters of principle or of general application relating to the conditions of employment, and questions arising as to the interpretation of the agreement.

In the sugar industry, matters which are not settled locally by estate procedure are dealt with by a standing industry-wide joint consultative committee, consisting of not more than four representatives of the Sugar Manufacturers' Federation and a similar number of trade union representatives, with the Industrial Adviser as chairman. As the name implies, this committee provides the means for regular consultation between management and labour on all matters affecting conditions of employment.

In the civil service, departmental Whitley Councils consisting of equal numbers of representatives of the administration and the staff have been set up in every permanent department of Government with the object of securing the greatest measure of co-operation between the two sides, to provide machinery for dealing with grievances and generally to bring together the different points of view respecting conditions of service within each department. In addition a Colony Whitley Council, representative of the Government and the Civil Service Association, has been established to deal with questions of general application.

Whether agreed machinery exists or not, cases which are not settled by direct negotiation are normally referred to the Labour Department, whose duty it is to endeavour to promote a settlement by conciliation. As a last resort voluntary arbitration machinery is provided by the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, under which the Governor may appoint an Arbitration Tribunal with the consent of both parties.

Fuel and Power (including Water)

Electricity Supply

The main electricity supply of the Colony is publicly owned and operated by :—

(i) The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (Government) ;

(ii) The Port of Spain Corporation Electricity Board (Municipal).

The Commission supplies energy in the northern part of the island and the distribution and sale of energy outside the limits of Port of Spain, while the Port of Spain Corporation Electricity Board distributes and sells energy within the city limits and maintains the city's electric transportation system. The Corporation Board buys energy in bulk from the Commission. The increase in

Digitized by Google

electricity consumption in recent years is shown in the following table :—

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION*

	Total Generated KWH	Domestic Use		Commercial		Industrial	
		No. of consumers	KWH	No. of consumers	KWH	No. of consumers	KWH
1946	33,696	15,985	6,989	1,423	7,366	301	9,972
1947	35,337	17,738	8,628	1,494	5,630	304	12,411
1948	39,545	19,914	10,329	1,435	5,588	332	14,263
1949	44,611	21,716	12,090	1,590	6,198	357	15,474
1950	47,862	23,789	13,524	1,559	6,851	393	15,852
1951	55,310	26,256	15,327	1,552	7,557	417	19,659

*These figures exclude San Fernando.

The Commission's Power Station is located in Port of Spain, and contains 7,500 kW of steam turbine plant and 7,400 kW. of diesel engine plant, generating at 6,600 volts. A further 5,000 kW. set is being installed. The Commission was in the course of erecting a new power station in the south of the island in 1950. This station will have a capacity of 5,000 kW. which it is hoped to increase to 10,000 kW. by 1954 and eventually to 30,000 kW. This will be connected with the Port of Spain station by a 66,000 volt transmission system with arrangements for distribution en route. There will be a 33,000 volt system south of the new power station at Penal. The Commission is also planning to install a diesel electric plant and distribution system in Scarborough, Tobago, where there is as yet no public supply.

The Commission supplies about 17,450,000 units a year to some 12,700 consumers over an area extending about 4 miles north, 9 miles west, and 28 miles east of Port of Spain and south to Caroni, and about 24,100,000 units to the Port of Spain City Council.

The Commission has an industrial power rate for consumers with power of 2 h.p. or over, with a standing charge of $1·00 per month per h.p. of assessed connected load, and an energy charge of 3 cents per unit for the first 100 hours' use per month of assessed connected load and 2¾ cents per unit for all additional energy used per month.

There is also a power station in San Fernando, operated by the Borough Council, which provides energy for that borough.

The oil and sugar industries maintain their own generating plants. The natural gas escaping from the oilfields in the southern portion of the island is used by the major oil companies to generate power.

Waterworks

In 1944 the Central Water Distribution Authority was established and took over the functions of distribution and rating of the Central Water Board, while the Department of Hydraulics assumed responsibility for those duties of the Central Water Board relating to impounding, winning, pumping and purification of water. The distribution system consists of 25 service reservoirs with a combined storage capacity of 13 million gallons. The Central Authority distributes around eight million gallons a day. The completion of the Hillsborough Dam in 1951 has greatly improved the supply position in the island.

The Authority is empowered to levy and collect water rates and charges. The principle of rating is based on the annual value of premises situated within Distribution Areas as are defined and proclaimed under law. The General Water Rate is levied on all premises situated in Distribution Areas which are within a quarter of a mile from a public standpipe whether such premises are supplied with water by means of a service or not, i.e., it is a rate payable by owners of premises which enjoy the amenities of a standpipe service.

The Central Government has undertaken to bear the capital cost of producing water under the Central Colony Scheme. It has also been agreed that the capital cost of new distribution systems which are constructed by the Department of Hydraulics and handed over to the Central Authority for operation and maintenance should be borne by the Central Government.

This system, however, whereby one authority is responsible for the winning and another for the distribution of water has proved to be unsatisfactory, and Government has at present under consideration the establishment of a Central Water Commission, which would have the overall responsibility for both winning and distribution.

An acute shortage of adequate water supplies throughout the colony is often experienced in the dry season. The Trinidad Five Year Economic Programme includes provision for an island-wide water scheme, primarily for domestic requirements. The estimated cost of the scheme is $23·7 million, and the plans envisage its being carried out in two stages, 1951–55 and 1956–60. The policy is to supply good water for domestic and other purposes for every inhabitant, and to keep domestic rates low. The Central Water Commission would, if established, be responsible for the scheme, which would be financed by loan from the Government. Under the scheme the Commission would be required to meet all sinking fund charges, and in order to keep the rates low the Government would provide a subsidy equal to these charges.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE.

Public Finance

Central Government

During the war period revenue and expenditure increased in volume, partly as a result of the inflated war economy and partly as a result of higher rates of taxation. Even before the war surplus balances had been accumulating rapidly—the increase amounted to $6½ million between 1936 and 1938. Between 1939 and 1950 both revenue and expenditure increased from $13½ million to $50 million. At the 31st December, 1950, there was an accrued surplus of approximately $29 million.

The following table shows the total figures of revenue and expenditure since 1939 :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year	Revenue ($)	Expenditure ($)
1939	13,421,444	13,000,676
1940	15,516,257	20,519,090
1941	18,929,897	16,819,761
1942	23,444,908	21,168,722
1943	29,165,630	28,894,183
1944	29,158,819	31,246,441
1945	30,558,550	33,650,740
1946	41,889,872	12,320,404
1947	37,325,302	37,417,052
1948	45,310,826	38,610,998
1949	50,877,074	42,329,867
1950	50,619,151	50,430,561
1951 (est.)	52,056,050	54,882,725

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the figures of revenue and expenditure under each head for the years 1949 and 1950 and the estimated figures for the year 1951 :—

REVENUE

Head	1949		1950		1951 (estimated)	
	$000	%	$000	%	$000	%
*Customs and Excise ..	17,854·8	35·2	17,636·8	35·1	16,812·9	33·0
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ..	3,204·2	6·3	3,621·8	7·2	3,664·8	7·2
Tax on incomes	20,482·9	40·4	17,540·4	35·0	18,900·0	37·1
Fees and Payment for specific services	823·4	1·6	954·3	1·9	898·0	1·8
Reimbursements	1,614·3	3·2	1,498·9	3·0	1,861·7	3·6
Earnings of Government Departments	289·6	0·6	495·4	1·0	668·4	1·3
Post Office	1,147·8	2·3	967·1	1·9	996·3	1·9
Rents of Government Property	184·6	0·4	209·1	0·4	229·0	0·4
Interest	620·4	1·2	519·0	1·0	551·1	1·1
Miscellaneous	436·6	0·9	527·2	1·1	284·9	0·6
Forest, Lands and Petroleum	4,024·4	7·9	6,217·7	12·4	6,135·2	12·0
Total Ordinary Revenue ..	50,683·0	100·0	50,187·9	100·0	51,002·3	100·0
Land Sales	6·4		5·2		5·0	
Loans to Public Bodies ..	7·5		16·6		11·3	
Emergency Taxation ..	0·4		7·4		—	
Grants under Colonial Development and Welfare Act	179·7		389·7		1,037·4	
Stores of Works and Hydraulics Department ..			12·5		—	
Total Extraordinary Revenue	194·0		431·3		1,053·7	
Total Revenue	50,877·0		50,619·2		52,056·0	

* Details of Customs and Excise revenue are as follows :—

	1949		1950		1951 (estimated)	
		$000		$000		$000
Import Duties		11,103·0		11,866·4		11,100·0
Export Duties (asphalt and pitch)		114·1		103·6		120·0
Excise Duties .. .. rum and spirits ..	3,817·3		3,927·6		3,900·0	
Excise Duties .. .. petrol and kerosene	2,400·7		1,367·8		1,300·0	
Excise Duties .. .. Other	375·3		325·9		354·9	
		6,593·3		5,621·3		5,554·9
Miscellaneous		44·7		45·5		38·0
		17,854·7		17,636·8		16,812·9

EXPENDITURE

Head	1949		1950		1951 (estimated)	
	$000	%	$000	%	$000	%
Charges on Public Debt ..	2,080·0	5·2	2,114·2	4·5	2,766·1	5·4
Pensions and Gratuities ..	2,311·0	5·7	2,482·6	5·3	3,056·3	6·0
Ord. Administration and Services	17,403·1	43·1	20,949·8	44·2	23,442·0	46·2
Social Assistance	410·9	1·0	442·2	0·9	509·1	1·0
*Special Services	3,667·9	9·1	4,044·9	8·5	4,408·9	8·7
Subventions	1,463·2	3·6	2,249·8	4·8	2,252·9	4·4
Works and Hydraulics Recurrent	4,671·7	11·6	5,007·9	10·6	5,065·1	10·0
Works and Hydraulics Extraordinary	2,359·8	5·9	3,041·4	6·4	2,771·9	5·5
Railways and Telegraphs ..	2,360·9	5·9	3,050·1	6·4	2,639·0	5·2
Miscellaneous Services ..	2,417·7	6·0	2,471·3	5·2	2,471·7	4·9
Post Services	336·8	0·8	559·4	1·2	330·9	0·6
Post Office	853·1	2·1	962·4	2·0	1,041·1	2·1
Total Ordinary Expenditure	40,336·1	100·0	47,376·1	100·0	50,755·0	100·0
Development Schemes ..	291·1		164·4		6·0	
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	389·3		999·7		1,245·6	
Expenditure from surplus balances	1,313·3		1,890·4		2,876·1	
Total Extraordinary Expenditure	1,993·8		3,054·5		4,127·7	
Total Expenditure ..	42,329·9		50,430·6		54,882·7	
* Of which food subsidies =	3,106·6		3,362·2		3752·0	

Digitized by Google

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1950, was $42,124,086, made up as follows :—

PUBLIC DEBT

	$	$
Local Loans :		
Debentures issued under Ordinance 15 of 1920	3,360	
Debentures issued under Ordinance 15 of 1918	1,440	
Debentures issued under Ordinance 41 of 1931	2,348,160	
Holders of Saving Certificates—Ordinance 3 of 1941	1,702,656	
Holders of Saving Certificates—Free of Interest	150	
Debentures issued under Ordinance 3 of 1941	1,769,664	
Debentures issued under Ordinance 27 of 1941 and 23 of 1942 ..	3,101,664	
Debentures issued under Ordinance 30 of 1944	5,006,592	
		13,933,686
External Loans :		
3½% Inscribed Stock issued under Ordinance 41 of 1931	4,968,000	
3% Stock issued under Ordinance 00 of 1965/70	8,016,000	
3% Stock issued under Ordinance 46 of 1945 and 3 of 1948 ..	15,206,400	
		28,190,400
Total ..		42,124,086

The main heads of taxation are as follows :—

Income Tax is imposed on the income of all individuals exceeding $1,200 net—i.e., after deductions for wife, children, life insurance premiums and dependants' allowances—and is charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. In the case of limited liability companies, a flat rate of 40 per cent. is payable on the chargeable income, subject to reliefs, in the hands of shareholders when such income is distributed. Life Insurance companies pay a flat rate of 15 per cent. on the chargeable income.

The following statement shows the amounts of tax payable in 1950 by individuals with various incomes and by companies :—

INCOME TAX—1950

Number of Taxpayers assessed to tax under each class with (net chargeable) incomes as classified (1)	*Rates of Tax in the $* (2)	*Tax charged on the entire incomes falling under each of the classes enumerated in Col.* (1) *subject to relief in respect of tax collected at the source and double taxation* (3)
$		$
4,381 not exceeding .. 1,000	10 cents	171,472·90
1,613 exceeding 1,000 and not 2,000	12 ,,	248,785·04
912 ,, 2,000 ,, ,, 3,000	16 ,,	266,112·00
546 ,, 3,000 ,, ,, 4,000	20 ,,	258,559·60
309 ,, 4,000 ,, ,, 5,000	28 ,,	219,090·04
117 ,, 5,000 ,, ,, 6,000	30 ,,	174,611·70
291 ,, 6,000 ,, ,,10,000	35 ,,	514,321·90
116 ,, 10,000 ,, ,,14,000	40 ,,	371,658·40
48 ,, 14,000 ,, ,,18,000	45 ,,	242,999·70
30 ,, 18,000 ,, ,,22,000	55 ,,	212,592·55
30 ,, 22,000 ,, ,,28,000	65 ,,	305,309·80
33 ,, 28,000 ,, ,,60,000	75 ,,	614,547·00
2 ,, 60,000 ,, ,,66,000	85 ,,	79,120·60
6 ,, 66,000 and upwards	90 ,,	464,368·50
7 Life Insurance Companies	15%	50,811·45
308 Other Companies	40%	14,953,782·80
Fines		2,327·81
8,809		$19,150,471·79

The net tax collected in 1950 was $17,540,406.

Estate Duty is imposed on all property, real and personal, which passes on the death of a person. The duty is divided into two parts, estate duty and succession duty.

Stamp Duty is a charge on all classes of instruments referred to in the Schedule to the Stamp Duties Ordinance. Other taxes include a sweepstake tax, an entertainment tax (10 per cent. of the price of admission to cinemas), and various licence fees.

Local Government

There are three Municipalities—the City of Port of Spain and the Boroughs of San Fernando and Arima.

The following table shows the figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1948 and 1949 in respect of each municipality :—

PORT OF SPAIN CORPORATION

	Revenue	*Expenditure*
	$	$
(*a*) *General Purposes* :		
1948 (actual) ..	975,804	1,138,708
1949 (estimated) ..	1,195,776	1,370,499
(*b*) *Waterworks* :		
1948 (actual) ..	464,193	430,354
1949 (estimated) ..	488,950	529,153
(*c*) *Sewerage Works* :		
1949 (actual) ..	158,781	126,812
1949 (estimated) ..	217,762	161,809
(*d*) *Woodbrook Estate*		
1948 (actual) ..	48,950	45,612
1949 (estimated) ..	49,353	56,961

Under the *Port of Spain Corporation Ordinance*, Ch. 39 No. 1, separate accounts are required to be kept under each of the above heads.

SAN FERNANDO BOROUGH COUNCIL

	Revenue	*Expenditure*
	$	$
1948 (actual) ..	339,416	335,365
1949 (estimated) ..	381,583	380,834

ARIMA BOROUGH COUNCIL

	Revenue	*Expenditure*
	$	$
1947-48 (actual) ..	41,928	34,443
1948-49 (estimated) ..	55,575	67,671

The local authorities derive their revenue from rates, vehicle licences, market dues, etc., and from government grants for public health purposes. Water and sewerage services are financed by rates and, in the case of water, charges.

Digitized by Google

Currency and Banking

The West Indian dollar is equivalent to 4s. 2d. (For details of the unified currency of the Eastern Caribbean colonies see Appendix, page 273.)

The amounts of notes in circulation at the end of the year in recent years are shown below :—

NOTE CIRCULATION

	Government Notes	*Bank Notes*	*Total*
	$000	$000	$000
1946	22,199	824	23,023
1947	19,499	506	20,005
1948	17,999	943	18,942
1949	18,399	1,213	19,612
1950	21,369	802	22,171

Statistics relating to Post Office Savings Banks are shown below :—

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS
($000)

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Deposits during period	4,685	4,886	4,944	4,882	5,748
Withdrawals during period	4,283	5,113	4,952	5,052	5,124
Net Savings ..	+402	−227	− 8	−170	+624
Total Deposits at end of period ..	9,530	9,508	9,698	9,736	10,359

There are four commercial banks operating in Trinidad—Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Gordon Grant and Co.

There is an Agricultural Credit Bank which provides credit for the co-operative societies, and in some cases for private individuals, in the form of loans up to 15 years and advances on crops up to three years. Sugar companies also make advances to cane farmers, and in one case to a group of Agricultural Credit Societies. (See also section on Co-operatives, pages 207–8.)

Private Investment

At the end of 1948 there were on the Register of Companies :—

(*a*) 488 companies incorporated in the Colony with an aggregate authorised capital of $126,302,536.
(*b*) 193 companies incorporated abroad with places of business in the Colony.

COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN THE COLONY

Class	*No. of Companies*	*Nominal Capital*	*Subscribed Capital*
		$	$
Plantations ..	33	13,280,000	7,206,475
Hardware	20	10,434,990	5,675,119
Oil	19	10,674,800	6,821,214
Dry Goods ..	17	3,812,280	2,331,254
Transport	16	1,860,000	346,980
Grocers	13	4,140,000	1,833,722
Investment ..	10	8,090,000	2,258,500
Drugs	9	865,000	293,378
Hotels and Restaurants ..	8	872,000	488,885
Telephones ..	1	6,000,000	2,650,000
Miscellaneous ..	342	66,273,466	(Not available)
Total	488	126,302,536	

Of the companies incorporated locally there are many with a large percentage of foreign subscribed capital. Private investment is uncontrolled if the investors are resident in the territory and raise the whole of the funds locally. As a rule private investors find it easier to raise capital in the London market, but this is subject to the restrictions imposed by the Capital Issues Committee.

No figures are available showing the authorised or issued capital for companies incorporated abroad. There are, however, ten oil companies in operation with a total authorised capital of £10,950,000 and a subscribed capital of £8,903,091. Three of the six sugar companies operating, with a total authorised capital of £1,945,000 and a subscribed capital of £1,894,585, are externally controlled.

The rate of bankruptcy is very low ; there were three bankruptcies in 1939, four in 1947, none in 1948 and four in 1949.

Cost of Living

A cost of living Index is prepared and published monthly. The Index is based on the estimated expenditure of a working man on consumer goods and rent. In the last few years the combined effects of changes in consumption standards and government subsidisation of items heavily weighted in the Index have tended to make it unrealistic.

Movements in the Index have been as follows :—

	1935=100
December 1939 ..	118
1940 ..	133
1941 ..	145
1942 ..	174
1943 ..	194
1944 ..	193
1945 ..	200
1946 ..	216
1947 ..	225
1948 ..	227
September 1949 ..	227
December 1949 ..	228
December 1950 ..	233
September 1951 ..	246
December 1951 ..	251

Investigations of family budgets were being carried out in 1951 as a preliminary to the preparation of a new and more representative Index.

A system of price control, which has been in operation since the early war years, covers most articles of food and clothing, as well as other domestic requirements, certain building materials, animal feeds and pharmaceuticals, and certain machinery and electrical supplies. Essential foods are controlled by the application of specific prices, made possible by subsidisation. Dry goods, hardware, etc., are mostly controlled by allowing a specific maximum percentage of profit on landed cost. Other articles which are not controlled in these ways are allowed the same margin of profit, calculated as a percentage on selling price, as was customary in the trade immediately prior to 1st September, 1939. In the case of locally produced goods—e.g., clothing—control usually takes the form of specific maximum percentage mark-ups on costs of production. Other local items, the prices of which were controlled in various ways at mid-1950, were biscuits, bread, margarine, fresh meat, fresh fish, sugar, bananas, tomatoes, copra products, coconut meal, gasolene, kerosene and brooms. As articles become more freely available, as many from soft currency sources did in 1950, they are usually decontrolled.

The Government has subsidised a number of essential foods for some years. Food subsidies were $2·9 million in 1947, $4·36 million in 1948, $3·4 million in 1949 and $3·36 million in 1950. Flour, imported rice, condensed milk, cooking butter, corned beef and pickled meats, dried salt codfish, and split peas were subsidised in 1950 and 1951. Most of the subsidised foodstuffs, and some others, have been purchased in bulk by the Government for some years to ensure equitable distribution and to make subsidisation and price control easier. These goods are rationed to the retailer (the only consumer-rationed article is rice). In 1949 bulk purchased food imports represented approximately two-thirds of all food imports. Measures taken late in 1949 to stave off the effects of devaluation on retail prices

Digitized by Google

included the suspension of import duties on flour and salt fish from Empire sources, the reduction of excise on gasolene from 18 cents to 9 cents per gallon, and the abolition of excise on kerosene. The revenue was able to stand this largely owing to the increase in oil royalties and income tax as a result of the rise in oil prices following devaluation.

Balance of Trade and Payments

The values of imports and exports for a series of years are shown below :—

Imports and Exports

	Total Imports	*Domestic Exports*	*Re-exports*	*Total Exports*
	$000	$000	$000	$000
1939	34,762·9	35,731·5	1,627·9	37,359·5
1940	45,092·1	43,573·7	2,617·4	46,192·1
1941	57,485·6	40,256·9	7,039·0	47,295·8
1942	55,094·5	43,074·1	4,055·0	47,129·1
1943	59,788·8	36,678·4	5,352·4	42,030·8
1944	68,988·5	49,272·7	4,833·6	54,106·3
1945	65,030·9	54,815·1	4,552·5	59,377·6
1946	75,403·0	57,572·1	4,103·9	61,675·9
1947	118,783·1	82,262·2	4,852·9	87,115·1
1948	131,822·3	127,105·4	5,521·7	132,627·1
1949	154,214·8	131,789·6	6,606·9	138,396·5
1950	169,226·0	167,562·5	10,029·7	177,592·2
1951	213,786·6	205,722·3	7,852·0	213,574·3

The adverse balances at least since the war, suggest that there has probably been a steady flow of foreign investment into Trinidad, although in the absence of information on invisibles it is not possible to verify this. Part of the adverse balance of trade may have been made up by a net gain on invisibles (e.g., shipping, tourists' earnings, etc., outweighing remittances abroad of profits, etc.) and it is also true that Trinidad was running down her sterling assets between 1945 and 1947. It seems unlikely that these factors, however, would account for the greater part of the adverse trade balances in the period.

The following table shows the principal sources of supply of imports and destinations of exports for a series of years.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE

Total Imports

	1939	1949	1950
	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	35·79	37·27	40·37
United States	25·49	15·85	8·17
Canada	14·50	12·00	8·49
Venezuela	3·31	13·91	20·58
Columbia	3·44	8·53	4·04
British West Indies ..	0·63	0·81	0·80
British Guiana	1·05	1·41	1·41
Other Commonwealth Countries	6·65	5·58	7·58
Other Countries	9·54	4·64	8·56
	100·00	100·00	100·00
Value of Imports.. $m.	34·76	154·21	169·23

Total Exports

	1939	1949	1950
	%	%	%
United Kingdom ..	55·5	36·2	30·5
United States	4·8	6·3	8·7
Canada	9·8	13·6	13·6
Brazil	0·6	10·5	15·2
British West Indies ..	8·6	4·3	4·8
British Guiana	1·2	1·1	1·7
Other Commonwealth Countries	2·6	4·2	4·4
French West Indies ..	1·3	1·1	0·9
Netherlands West Indies	9·2	5·0	4·9
Other Countries	6·6	17·7	15·3
	100·0	100·0	100·0
Value of Exports $m.	28·01	117·42	150·32
Ships' Stores and Bunkers	9·35	20·98	27·27
Value of Total Exports $m.	37·36	138·40	177·59

The principal imports and exports for a series of years, and the principal countries from which they were imported or to which they were exported, are shown in the following tables :

Digitized by Google

IMPORTS

	Unit of Quantity	1939			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*
			$	($ *million*)			($ *million*)			($ *million*)
Class I. Food, Drink and Tobacco										
Fish, Cured and Salted ..	cwt.	61,064	441,734	Canada (0·4)	57,002	1,401,996	Canada (1·2)	59,777	1,747,903	U.K. (1·1), Canada (0·5).
Flour	cwt.	677,825	1,579,734	Canada (1·3), Australia (0·2) ..	854,113	7,597,236	Canada (7·59)	963,133	8,730,924	Canada (8·6), U.S.A. (0·1).
Pork (Salted and Pickled) ..	cwt.	21,640	205,071	U.S.A. (0·14), Canada (0·05) ..	25,787	679,107	Canada (0·4), U.S.A. (0·2) ..	23,076	546,418	Canada (0·3), Argentine (0·1).
Bacon and Ham	cwt.	7,481	145,408	Brazil (0·04), U.K. (0·03), Argentine (0·02)	5,067	391,096	Australia (0·16), Argentine (0·1), Canada (0·1).	6,144	524,259	Australia (0·3), Argentine (0·1).
Meat Products (canned, tinned and paste)	cwt.	6,813	135,343	Argentine (0·04), Uruguay (0·02), U.S.A. (0·02) ..	11,849	627,982	Paraguay (0·2), Australia (0·2), Canada (0·1).	14,916	872,593	New Zealand (0·3), Denmark (0·2), Australia (0·2), Paraguay (0·1).
Beef (fresh, frozen and chilled)	cwt.	10,870	139,297	Argentine (0·12)	22,022	553,119	Australia (0·5)	37,654	1,164,076	Australia (1·1).
Beef (salted)	cwt.	13,018	108,697	Argentine (0·06), Brazil (0·03)	1,589	51,457	Uraguay (0·025), Canada (0·025)	8,447	265,069	Australia (0·2).
Condensed Milk	cwt.	83,940	861,841	Holland (0·7)	126,353	3,988,224	Canada (1·9), Australia (1·8)	122,847	3,848,955	Australia (2·3), Netherlands (1·0)
Rice	cwt.	420,935	992,179	India (0·7), Brit. Guiana (0·2)	272,577	1,804,034	British Guiana (1·8)	270,421	1,949,095	Brit. Guiana (all).
Fresh vegetables		—	388,321	Canada (0·2)	—	1,472,900	Netherlands (0·7), Canada (0·2), Brit. W. Indies (0·2)	—	1,402,894	Netherlands (0·9), Brit. W. Indies (0·1), U.S.A. (0·1).
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	lb.	1,094,836	347,906	U.S.A. (0·33)	1,063,810	868,614	Canada (0·4), U.S.A. (0·27), S. Rhodesia (0·18)	1,341,760	1,353,523	Canada (0·8), U.S.A. (0·5).
Tobacco (manufactured) ..	lb.	39,255	57,480	U.K. (0·03)	96,458	217,462	U.K. (0·2)	116,595	320,082	U.K. (0·2), U.S.A. (0·1).
Other		—	3,912,401		—	11,898,572		—	13,439,203	
Total		—	9,315,412	Canada (2·6), U.K. (1·18), India (0·9), U.S.A. (0·9), Holland (0·8), Venezuela (0·7)	—	31,551,799	Canada (14·8), Australia (4·4), U.K. (3·2), Brit. Guiana (1·9), Netherlands (1·2), Venezuela (1·04), U.S.A. (1·2)	—	36,164,994	Canada (12·2), Australia (6·8), U.K. (5·1), Netherlands (2·9), Brit. Guiana (2·0), U.S.A. (1·1).
Class II. Raw Materials, Mainly Unmanufactured										
Petroleum, Crude	Gals.	11,751,489	448,034	Venezuela (0·44) (all)	395,355,587	33,279,986	Venezuela (20·1), Colombia (13·1).	393,828,400	40,793,383	Venezuela (33·9), Colombia (6·8).
Coal	tons	40,827	285,084	U.S.A. (0·24)	39,163	663,093	U.S.A. (all)	28,576	588,100	U.S.A. (0·4), S. Africa (0·18).
Pitch Pine	load	17,405	610,403	U.S.A. (0·61)	16,095	1,643,478	U.S.A. (1·3), Bahamas (0·2) ..	11,415	1,346,161	Bahamas (0·5), Brit. Honduras (0·4).
Other			975,103			1,955,159			1,769,971	
Total		—	2,318,624	U.S.A. (1·1), Australia (0·4), Venezuela (0·4), U.K. (0·1)	—	37,541,716	Venezuela (20·2), Colombia (13·2), U.S.A. (2·7)	—	44,497,615	Venezuela (34·0), Colombia (6·8), U.S.A. (1·0).

Digitized by Google

IMPORTS—*continued*

	Unit of Quantity	1939			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*	*Quantities*	*Value*	*Principal Countries of Origin*
			$	($ *million*)		$	($ *million*)		$	($ *million*)
Class III. Manufactures										
Apparel (except footwear)		—	1,363,095	Hong Kong (0·4), U.K. (0·3), Canada (0·2)	—	2,620,096	U.K. (1·3), U.S.A. (0·7), Hong Kong (0·3), Canada (0·1)	—	2,762,699	U.K. (1·8), Hong Kong (0·4), U.S.A. (0·1).
Boots and Shoes (all kinds)	Doz. Prs.	71,070	653,390	U.K. (0·4), Canada (0·1) ..	117,392	2,294,938	U.K. (1·4), Czechoslovakia (0·3)	126,254	3,357,617	U.K. (2·1), Czechoslovakia (0·7).
Cotton Piece Goods ..	sq. yds.	9,623,725	1,040,815	U.K. (0·8), U.S.A. (0·2) ..	7,331,778	3,572,334	U.K. (2·4), U.S.A. (0·8) ..	13,742,114	6,311,739	U.K. (3·5), Japan (1·3), India (0·5).
Cement	tons	43,061	731,294	U.K. (0·5), Canada (0·2) ..	41,272	1,347,234	U.K. (1·3)	49,224	1,649,693	U.K. (1·6).
Chemical Products		—	453,234	U.K. (0·2), U.S.A. (0·2) ..	—	2,853,668	U.K. (2·0), U.S.A. (0·3), Canada (0·1).	—	2,259,481	U.K. (2·0), U.S.A. (0·2).
Fertilisers (manufactured) ..	tons	6,882	233,872	U.K. (0·2)	7,076	687,913	U.K. (0·5), U.S.A. (0·1) ..	6,000	610,135	U.K. (0·5).
Tubes, Pipes and Fittings ..	tons	20,227	2,703,480	U.K. (1·5), U.S.A. (1·0) ..	22,609	6,490,212	U.K. (4·2), U.S.A. (1·9) ..	21,052	6,663,472	U.K. (4·3), U.S.A. (2·0).
Machinery		—	1,591,241	U.S.A. (0·9), U.K. (0·7) ..	—	3,160,873	U.K. (1·6), U.S.A. (1·5) ..	—	4,254,824	U.K. (2·8), U.S.A. (1·4).
Art. Silk Piece Goods (including art. silk mixtures)	sq. yds.	2,489,198	452,221	U.K. (0·2), Japan (0·06) ..	4,095,112	2,938,535	U.K. (2·4), Italy (0·4) ..	5,310,362	3,768,413	U.K. (2·9), Italy (0·7).
Motor Cars	No.	622	499,680	Canada (0·3), U.K. (0·2) ..	2,055	3,464,096	U.K. (3·0), U.S.A. (0·4) ..	2,006	3,433,956	U.K. (3·2), France (0·1).
Lorries and Vans	No.	90	80,389	Canada (0·03), U.S.A. (0·02), U.K. (0·02)	558	947,337	U.K. (0·9)	566	1,272,751	U.K. (1·2).
Other		—	13,255,239		—	54,579,605		—	52,030,966	
Total		—	23,057,950	U.K. (11·1), U.S.A. (6·7) ..	—	84,956,841	U.K. (54·1), U.S.A. (20·4), Canada (2·9), India (1·4)	—	88,375,746	U.K. (62·9), U.S.A. (11·6), Canada (1·5), Czechoslovakia (1·5).
Class IV.										
Animals not for food ..		—	70,968	U.S.A. (0·046), U.K. (0·01) ..	—	164,447	U.S.A. (0·1)	—	187,615	U.S.A. (0·077), U.K. (0·058).
Grand Total		—	34,762,954	U.K. (12·4), U.S.A. (8·8), Canada (5·0) India (1·2), Venezuela (1·2)	—	154,214,803	U.K. (57·5), U.S.A. (24·4), Venezuela (21·5), Canada (18·4), Colombia (13·2)	—	169,225,970	U.K. (68·3), Venezuela (34·8), Canada (14·4), U.S.A. (13·8), Australia (6·9), Colombia (6·8).

Digitized by Google

DOMESTIC EXPORTS
(including ships' stores and bunkers)

		1939			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*
			$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)
Petroleum (all kinds) ..	000 gals.	613,065·7	26,762·3	U.K. (10·5), bunkers (3·6) ..	1,034,536·5	97,328·4	U.K. (27·6), bunkers (18·8), Brazil (11·7), Netherlands W. Indies (6·7), Canada (5·2)	1,006,477·5	126,309·2	n.a.
Sugar	cwts.	2,286,884	5,087·0	U.K. (3·4), Canada (1·7) ..	2,774,238	17,752·2	Canada (9·3), U.K. (8·4) ..	2,471,053	17,900·6	U.K. (9·3), Canada (8·7).
Cocoa (raw and products)..	lb.	16,752,624	1,212·7	U.S.A. (0·59), U.K. (0·15), Canada (0·15)	12,831,781	4,519·4	U.S.A. (2·2), U.K. (1·5), Belgium (0·2)	16,197,928	8,360·7	U.S.A. (4·0), U.K. (2·6).
Asphalt (including asphalt cement)	tons	88,421	1,170·6	U.K. (0·4), U.S.A. (0·24), Australia (0·1)	122,861	4,848·9	U.K. (1·0), Brazil (0·7), Netherlands (0·3), New Zealand (0·3)	132,396	5,542·7	Brazil (0·9), U.K. (0·8), New Zealand (0·5), Australia (0·5), S. Africa (0·4).
Rum	m. gals.	182,639	97·5	U.K. (0·08), U.S.A. (0·01) ..	1,773,069	3,111·7	U.K. (2·5), Canada (0·2), Gold Coast (0·2)	1,165,600	2,065·0	U.K. (1·5), Canada (0·2).
Bitters	m. gals.	9,426	95·6	U.K. (0·05), Sweden (0·009)	40,445	408·1	U.S.A. (0·2), U.K. (0·05) ..	47,587	620·0	U.S.A. (0·5), U.K. (0·04).
Grapefruit	cwts.	15,934	71·5	U.K. (0·05), Canada (0·02) ..	54,199	323·2	U.K. (0·3)	97,558	585·4	U.K. (0·57).
Grapefruit juice	gals.	150,826	61·5	Canada (0·06)	488,905	566·6	U.K. (0·3), Canada (0·1) ..	1,007,244	1,282·5	Canada (1·1).
Molasses	gals.	3,252,125	178·4	Canada (0·09), U.K. (0·05), U.S.A. (0·04)	1,545,408	49·6	Canada (0·049)	3,274,864	119·4	U.K. (0·1).
Copra	lb.	12,516,112	189·6	Colombia (0·1), U.K. (0·08) ..	—	—	—	1,568,000	256·8	Sweden (all).
Coconuts	cwts.	7,909	7·7	Canada (0·003), Germany (0·002)	—	—	—	25	0·3	Bermuda (all)
Other	—	—	797·2	—	—	2,881·5	—	—	4,519·9	—
Total Domestic Exports ..		—	35,731·6	U.K. (14·8), Canada (2·6), N.W.I. (2·5), B.W.I. (2·2)	—	131,789·6	U.K. (41·1), Canada (15·9), Brazil (12·4), U.S.A. (5·9), Netherlands W. Indies (5·8), Brit. W. Indies (4·1).	—	167,562·5	U.K. (44·5), Brazil (21·6), Canada (20·4), U.S.A. (11·6).

Digitized by Google

RE-EXPORTS
(including ships' stores and bunkers)

		1939			1949			1950		
		Quantity	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*
			$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)
Raw Cocoa	lb.	4,965,072	465·1	U.S.A. (0·3), U.K. (0·1) ..	4,089,191	1,342·9	U.S.A. (1·1), Switzerland (0·2)	2,174,394	1,215·5	U.S.A. (0·8), Switzerland (0·2).
Coal	tons	35,459	247·3		33,971	746·0		21,051	582·3	
Spirits	—		56·4		—	266·0		—	497·3	
Meat	lb.	97,356	15·3		360,818	213·4		365,417	217·9	
Machinery	—	—	109·4		—	475·7		—	500·1	
Metals and Metal goods ..	—	—	38·8		—	132·3		—	529·8	
Apparel	—	—	171·5		—	64·7		—	162·7	
Other	—	—	524·1		—	3,365·9		—	6,324·1	
Total Re-exports	—	—	1,627·9	Venezuela (0·4), U.S.A. (0·36), U.K. (0·2)	—	6,606·9	U.S.A. (1·5), U.K. (1·4), Brit. W. Indies (0·9), Venezuela (0·5).	—	10,029·7	U.S.A. (1·36), Venezuela (1·35), U.K. (1·34), Brazil (1·2), Brit. W. Indies (1·1).

TOTAL EXPORTS

	1939			1949			1950		
	Quantity	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Principal Destinations*
		$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)		$000	($ *million*)
Total Exports	—	37,359·5	U.K. (15·0), Canada (2·7), N.W.I. (2·6)	—	138,396·5	U.K. (42·5), Canada (16·0), Brazil (12·4).	—	177,592·2	U.K. (45·9), Brazil (22·8), Canada (20·5), U.S.A. (13·0).

Digitized by Google

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

In 1942 the Government began a programme of capital works as a contribution towards the social and economic advancement of the people. The projects included schemes for hospital buildings, road communications, aerodrome improvements, water supplies, and irrigation and drainage, and sums were set aside each year from revenue for the commencement and continuation of these works.

The works forming part of the programme may conveniently be divided into the following broad categories : health, water supplies, drainage, irrigation, roads, education, housing, miscellaneous, development works.

The following schedule gives a general picture of what has been spent on these schemes up to 31st December, 1949. Of the total expenditure of $27·5 million, $11·3 million came from loans and $7·8 million from revenue (omitting $8·4 million lent to the Housing Commission).

SCHEDULE OF COMPLETED WORKS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Head	*Description*	*Revised Estimated cost*	*Total Expenditure to 31st December, 1949*	*Balance for completion as at 1st January, 1950*
Health		$	$	$
Hospital Buildings				
1. *Port of Spain*				
Works completed	Mostly staff quarters	247,142	234,455	—
Works in progress	Casualty ward, kitchen, laundry, nurses' home .. .. .. (Plant sufficient to cater for 600–650 bed capacity)	1,951,718	1,924,132	27,586
2. *San Fernando*				
Works completed	Nurses' hostel	709,029	695,658	—
Works in progress	New hospital .. .. .. (Will provide for 500 beds and serve entire southern section of colony)	4,098,400	850,984	3,247,416
3. *St. Annes Mental Hospital*				
Works completed	New wards	80,000	69,507	—
Works in progress	Laundry	84,816	66,450	18,366
4. *Leprosarium*				
Works completed	Staff quarters and electrification ..	108,787	103,039	—
5. *Tuberculosis*				
Sanatorium (1st stage)				
Works in progress	158 beds	1,644,000	1,464,938	179,062
6. *Health Centres*				
Works completed	10 Centres	146,754	142,748	—
Works in progress	1 Centre—including nurses'quarters	15,500	12,865	2,635
Total Health ..			5,564,776	
Water Supplies				
Various supply schemes completed	Mostly rural areas not served by main schemes	334,536	413,334	—
Works in progress				
Tobago	Hillsborough scheme to provide 850 gallons per day for Tobago	1,920,000	1,151,275	768,725
Caura	Dam to supply Port of Spain with seven million gallons per day ..	7,142,132	2,495,639	4,646,493
Caura Filtration Plant ..		316,013	257,378	58,635
Total Water Supplies			4,317,626	
Drainage and Irrigation				
Works completed	Tunapuna rice area, cane belt Caroni and El Sorocco ..	1,406,475	1,185,164	
Roads				
Works completed .. } Works deferred .. }	Reconstruction and realignment of Southern Main Road	2,592,967 / 2,050,000	2,547,541 / 312	— / —
Total Roads ..			2,547,853	—
Education				
Works completed	School buildings	69,647	68,520	—
Central Training and Farm Institute	Scheme abandoned and converted to experimental station.. ..	720,000	184,936	—
Miscellaneous				
Slipway		—	1,062,771	—
Laventville Reclamation Scheme	Area approximately three miles long and 4,000 feet wide near Port of Spain. When reclaimed would provide industrial zone near road, rail and sea transport facilities, and housing area for 2,500 families from slum areas of Port of Spain. No detailed costs yet worked out	—	1,886,947	—
Other Miscellaneous	Including Quarters, Government Offices, Aerodrome Improvements, Tobago Harbour Improvements	—	2,326,767	—
Total Miscellaneous			5,276,485	—
Housing and Planning ..	(Monies made available to Housing Commission as at 31st December, 1949)		8,395,034	—
Total			27,540,394	

Digitized by Google

FIVE-YEAR ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

	Description	*Total Estimated Cost*	*Planned Expenditure Five Years*	*Estimated Annual Recurrent Costs not included in 1950 Budget*	*Estimated Annual Revenue and Reimbursements*	*Remarks*
		$	$	$	$	
Water	Mainly renovation of city mains and completion of Caura dam	23,724,000	14,724,000	380,000	—	Loan charges to be met by water authority and revenue to accrue to this body. The $380,000 is contribution to cover sinking fund to keep water charges low.
Electricity	Island-wide electrification	9,600,000	6,000,000	—	—	To be self-balancing.
Roads	Improvement of South Trunk and Eastern main road mainly	7,339,000	2,980,500	22,300	—	
Drainage and Irrigation	For rice production and erosion control	1,150,000	1,150,000	7,500	—	Additional Revenue from rating not yet assessed.
		8,120,000	1,845,000	16,500	20,000	
Housing	Slum clearance, rural and official housing	3,777,800	1,937,500	230,000	—	
Education	School buildings	3,302,000	3,218,000	152,000	—	
Health	Completion of San Fernando Hospital and minor hospital works and health centres	1,585,000	1,125,000	84,000	111,000	
Agricultural Services	Experimental Station and Land Settlements	—	3,005,275	35,150	—	
Miscellaneous	Harbour improvements, Public Buildings, Police Stations, Railway, Industrial Loan Board	—	—	1,540,000	1,270,000	
Loan						In addition to the $1·5m. another $20,000 is provided for in the 1950 Budget. The $1,270,000 is the loan charge which the statutory bodies for water and electricity will pay to Government.
Total		—	35,985,275	2,467,450	1,401,000	

Digitized by Google

Until 1950 the Colony had no Ten Year Plan, although it had spent considerable sums on development since the war. In mid-1950, however, a Five Year Economic Programme was drawn up and later approved. Very briefly the programme envisages the expenditure of $35·9 million in the next five years (or $38·8 million if certain additional schemes are included) to be financed, it is suggested, as follows :—

	$m.
From Loan Funds	27·3
From Surplus Balances	5·1
From Colonial Development and Welfare Funds	3·5
	35·9

Nearly 60 per cent. of the suggested total expenditure is on self-balancing items—mainly water and electricity extension schemes. A brief summary of the main items included is given on the previous page.

Other Development

Agriculture

The sugar companies have spent considerable sums on the renewal and modernisation of factories and on the mechanisation of field work, partly with monies from the Sugar Rehabilitation Fund. The credit facilities open to peasant farmers for long-term improvements have been greatly extended since the war, as a result of the operations of the Agricultural Credit Banks and the growth of the Agricultural Co-operative Societies.

Rehabilitation of the cocoa industry is being undertaken, both small farmers and estates taking advantage of the assistance given in this connection by the Cocoa Board. The rice industry, which is mainly in the hands of peasant farmers, has expanded considerably, and further encouragement is being given by government-sponsored drainage and irrigation schemes and investigation of improved farming methods. The Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association is extending its cold storage and canning plant, and further plantings are being undertaken to fulfil the long-term contract to supply the United Kingdom with welfare juices. Banana plantings were also being extended in 1950 in response to active demand from the United States of America.

Mining

Large sums have been spent by the oil companies in the search for new sources of supplies to maintain indigenous output, but at the end of 1950 results gave no grounds for optimism. One refinery is undertaking extensive plant modernisation which will enable it to produce a larger range of products.

Secondary Industries

There has been a steady development of secondary industries since the war, mostly catering for the local market. New industries established recently include the making of boxes and glass products, brewing, the manufacture of time-recording instruments, and a textile plant and shirt factory. The Colonial Development Corporation is participating financially in the construction of a cement factory, which was being built in 1952. Various other projects are under construction.

Considerable tax and duty concessions have been given to pioneer industries under the *Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance* of 1950, and the *Income Tax (in Aid of Industry) Ordinance* provides for increased depreciation allowances for a large number of pioneer and established industries.

The Government's Five Year Economic Programme includes provision for an Industrial Loans Board to assist the establishment and expansion of small local industries.

Digitized by Google

WINDWARD ISLANDS
DOMINICA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

Dominica is the northernmost island of the Windward Islands Colony. It lies roughly midway in that chain of West Indian islands known as the Lesser Antilles, and is situated between the two French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, near the intersection of parallels 15° N. and 61° W.

The area of the island is approximately 304 square miles, and it is the third largest of the British West Indies, exceeded in size only by Jamaica and Trinidad. It is very mountainous ; an almost continuous range, which is in places nearly 5,000 feet high, runs the whole length of the centre of the island in a north–south direction, with lateral spurs enclosing fertile and well-watered valleys. This central mountain backbone divides the island into two economically distinct regions, the leeward area (on the west) and the windward area (on the east). At the present time by far the greater part of the colony's economic activity is carried on in the leeward area, but improved communications would make possible the development of the windward area, the economic potentialities of which are not inferior to the leeward.

The climate is on the whole good. It varies considerably in accordance with altitude, being warmer and drier near the coast, and becoming cooler and wetter as one goes inland. On the leeward coast the annual rainfall varies from 50 inches to 80 inches ; on the windward coast it is about 100 inches and in the mountainous interior 200 inches and over. Vegetation is consequently very luxuriant, and small rivers and mountain torrents abound. The mean island temperature is about 80° F., being about 75° F. in the cooler season and 85° F. in the hotter season. The temperature hardly ever becomes unbearable and during the cool months of the year, from December to March, it is distinctly pleasant. The dry season lasts from about February to May ; June to November are generally the wettest months, and it is during this period that hurricanes are most likely to occur.

The soil is mostly of volcanic formation and evidence of the island's volcanic origin is supplied by the existence of several soltafaras, hot streams and above all a boiling lake. The soil is considered to be very fertile and most tropical plants thrive satisfactorily. The flora of the island is varied, and especially in the interior parts of the island, which are largely under forest, characteristic tropical vegetation luxuriates in profusion.

Roseau, the capital, is situated at the south-western end of the island and is the chief port. It lies, however, on an open roadstead, unlike Portsmouth, the second principal town and seaport, which is enclosed by the capacious Prince Rupert Bay. Both these ports are on the leeward coast and lie on the Caribbean Sea. The windward coast, which is washed by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, lacks suitable harbours, and the trade winds which blow during a great part of the year give rise to high seas, so that shipping possibilities on that coast are limited.

Population

The Census of April 1946 showed a total population of 47,624, of whom 11,477 were resident in urban areas and 36,147 in rural areas. The population of Roseau, the capital, was 9,752. At the end of 1950 the total population was estimated to be 54,577.

Racial distribution, as shown by the 1946 Census, was as follows :—

Carib	40
White	142
Black	11,862
East Indian	4
Syrian	32
Chinese	1
Other Asiatic	2
Mixed or coloured	35,524
Race not stated	17
Total	47,624

The age distribution of the population in 1946 was as follows :—

POPULATION–AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Under 5 years ..	3,324	3,251	6,575
5 to 14 ,, ..	5,965	5,897	11,862
15 to 44 ,, ..	9,413	10,892	20,305
45 to 64 ,, ..	2,789	3,829	6,618
65 and over ..	716	1,471	2,252
Not stated ..	5	7	12
Total ..	22,277	25,347	47,624

There was an increase of 28·5 per cent. in the population between the censuses of 1921 and 1946, representing a rate of approximately one per cent. per annum.

Birth, death, and infant mortality rates have been as follows in recent years :—

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Births (per thousand population)	*Deaths (per thousand population)*	*Infant Mortality per thousand live births*
1946	35·7	20·6	141·0
1947	34·3	18·8	137·6
1948	36·0	14·5	91·0
1949	34·4	13·4	89·3
1950	34·4	17·6	143·4

Migration

There has been a continuous external movement of population during the past decade to other West Indian areas, notably to the French island of Guadeloupe and the Dutch islands of Curacao and Aruba. There are no reliable statistics of this movement available, especially to Guadeloupe to which a great deal of unrecorded emigration takes place. It is estimated, however, that in both areas thousands of natives of Dominica have taken up residence in search of employment. The net loss of population by emigration is estimated at 5,637 over the period 1921 to 1946. The number of aliens living in the Colony does not exceed 200.

Digitized by Google

Occupations

The following is the Labour Department's estimate of the numbers employed in the principal industries at the end of 1948 :—

Agriculture	11,500
Fishing	700
Forestry	300
Manufacture and Repair	2,500
Construction	2,200
Transport and Communication ..	400
Commerce and Finance	950
Professional Service	550
Public Service	400
Personal Service	1,800
	21,300

Social Amenities

Education

There were 39 primary schools in 1950. Of these 36 were Government schools and three grant-aided schools run by the Roman Catholic Church authorities. The primary schools provide for the education of children between the ages of five and 12 years, but children are permitted to attend until they attain the age of 15 years. As the schools do not provide adequate accommodation for all children of school age, the law relating to compulsory attendance is not enforced. Primary education is free and largely co-educational. There were also eight private elementary schools, mainly in small and isolated places, seven of which received a small Government grant.

The number of children of primary school age in 1950 was estimated to be 12,900. Enrolment was around 10,000 and average attendance some two-thirds of this. According to the 1946 census, 35 per cent. of the adult population is illiterate.

Sixteen scholarships were available in 1950 to the secondary schools, of which there are two for boys, the Dominica Grammar School (Government) and St. Mary's Academy (Roman Catholic), and two for girls, the Convent High School and the Wesley High School ; the private schools receive grants from the Government. These schools provide education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate examination. Enrolment was about 500 (half boys and half girls) and average attendance about 80 per cent.

There are no local facilities for higher education. In 1950 nineteen Dominca students were receiving education in Universities and professional schools abroad. Adult classes under the aegis of the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies commenced in 1950, and lectures were given on a variety of subjects.

There are no facilities for technical education, but there is a certain amount of informal apprenticeship to local tradesmen. In the rural areas, classes in fundamental education have been held to combat illiteracy, and to improve health and living conditions.

Health

The most prevalent diseases are malaria, yaws, venereal diseases, diseases due to malnutrition and vitamin deficiences, anaemia, and tuberculosis. On the whole, however, the island can be considered a healthy one, and the prevalence of malaria, for example, is not great as compared with many other Caribbean territories.

There are four hospitals with a total of 137 beds (Roseau 92, Portsmouth 35, Marigot 6, Grand Bay 4) ; there are plans for modernising Roseau hospital and increasing its bed capacity to 134. The Government medical staff for the island consists of six medical officers and one dental officer. General clinics are held at 19 centres, some being held as often as three times weekly and others once a fortnight. To combat malnutrition and vitamin deficiency diseases, free distribution of vitamin preparations is made at Child Welfare and Ante-Natal clinics. A supply of powdered milk is also distributed to some schools, while liquid milk and cod liver oil are distributed at the Child Welfare clinics.

Sanitary Inspectors concentrate their efforts on the control of mosquito breeding, attend to the proper disposal of refuse, see that yards are kept properly drained and cleaned, that food establishments, latrines, etc., are kept in proper sanitary condition, and in general take whatever steps are necessary for preventing communicable diseases. A three-year programme was started in 1950 to improve rural sanitary conditions, and an anti-Yaws Campaign was started in 1943, and is in operation throughout the island. There is a Leper Home, run by the Medical Department, with about 20 patients.

Housing

The housing conditions of the poorer sections of the population are not good, especially in Roseau and in the villages on the Leeward coast where there is serious congestion, overcrowding and structural decay. There are considerable slum areas in the capital town, Roseau, though overcrowding there is less serious than in the country districts. The villages on the Windward coast are generally scattered ; the houses, which are mostly owner-occupied, have a fair amount of yard and garden space, and are kept in good repair, probably as a result of the easier access to forests in that part of the island.

According to the 1946 census, out of a total of 11,713 dwellings in the colony, 4,660, or 40 per cent. had one room and 5,363, or 46 per cent., two rooms ; the former contained 31 per cent. and the latter 51·5 per cent. of the population.

Most houses are built for owner-occupation, though some of the smaller ones are built for rent. In Roseau, rents paid by labourers are from 2s. 0d. to 2s. 6d. per room per week. In some cases land only is rented at from 10s. 0d. to 20s. 0d. per year for a lot on which the labourer builds his own house. The rents of building land and both furnished and unfurnished houses have been controlled since 1942, and are generally not more than 7½ per cent. above the pre-war level.

Under the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, and the Slum Clearance and Housing Ordinance, both passed in 1946, a Central Housing and Planning Authority has been formed ; it has powers to acquire land or buildings, and to prepare housing and planning schemes, and can make arrangements with local authorities or housing associations for providing working-class houses. So far no schemes have been carried out, largely because of lack of funds, though Government has acquired the Goodwill Estate near Roseau, and a considerable portion of it has been set aside for rehousing in connection with slum clearance. There are no building societies, but an Ordinance passed in 1949 provides for their registration and lays down various rules for their conduct.

Social Security

There is no social insurance system providing against unemployment, old age, etc. In 1950 more than 500 persons were receiving poor relief, and the sum of $12,150 (£2,530) was provided for this purpose by Government. Allowances vary between 1s. 6d. and 5s. 0d. per week per person.

There are a number of Friendly Societies, but they do not cover more than 10 per cent. of the working population. There are a number of Savings Unions, with a total membership, in 1950, of 867. Both the Government Savings Bank and the three commercial banks accept the savings of small depositors.

Digitized by Google

Indoor relief is provided at the Dominica Infirmary, a semi-voluntary institution largely subsidized by Government for the aged destitute of the Colony, which has accommodation for 36 inmates; it is now being enlarged. Applications for admittance have been considerably larger than the numbers for whose maintenance the available funds could provide.

Political Structure

Central Government

On 1st January, 1940, Dominica became a Colony of the Windward Islands group. From 1871 to 1939 the island had been attached to the more closely federated Leeward Islands Colony.

The Government of Dominica is administered by an Administrator, as representative of the Governor of the Windward Islands, aided by an Executive Council. This Council now consists of the Administrator, the Crown Attorney and the Financial Secretary as *ex-officio* members, one official member appointed by the Governor, one member of the Legislative Council nominated by the Governor, and three members elected by the Legislative Council from among their number.

Following the introduction of the Crown Colony system in 1898, a Legislative Council was created. At first all the members were nominated by the Governor, but in 1924 the elective principle was introduced as regards four of the six non-official members, and in 1936 the constitution of the Legislative Council was again changed to provide for a Legislative Council to consist of the Administrator as President, two *ex-officio* members, three nominated members and five elected members. In 1951 adult suffrage was introduced, and the number of elected members has been increased to eight, giving an elected majority in the Legislative Council; elections under the new Constitution are expected to be held in the autumn of 1951.

Local Government

The municipal affairs of the town of Roseau are under the control of the Roseau Town Council, a statutory body consisting of five members elected by the ratepayers of Roseau and three members nominated by the Governor. Elections and nominations take place every three years. The Roseau Town Council deals with sanitation, streets, markets, fire fighting, street lighting and water supply. It raises the whole of its revenue from rates, licences, and fees; its estimates of revenue and expenditure are subject to the approval of the Governor.

Portsmouth, the only other town of the Colony, has a Town Board, the members of which are nominated. This municipality raises only a small percentage of its revenue, the balance coming from Government.

In several of the principal villages there are statutory Village Boards. They are of comparatively recent origin, and their membership is at present wholly nominated and limited to 10 persons. Their revenue is almost entirely derived from a small house rate, with an equal amount as grant from Government. In 1948 legislation was passed providing for the election of part of the membership of these Boards on a basis of adult suffrage, subject to a literacy qualification.

The principal Departments of the administration of the Colony are shown in the table on page 229.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The Companies Act makes provision for the registration of both Public and Private Companies. No company, association or partnership consisting of more than 20 persons can be formed to engage in business unless registered as a company under the Companies Act, but this provision does not apply in the case of companies engaged in banking or insurance business.

Trade Tariffs

The trade tariff of Dominica is mainly for purposes of revenue. Tariffs are either on an *ad valorem* or a specific basis. The following are some of the principal tariff rates :—

IMPORT DUTIES

	British Preferential Tariff	*General Tariff*
Apparel	10% *ad valorem*	20% *ad valorem*
Boots and Shoes	10% *ad valorem*	20% *ad valorem*
Butter	16s. 8d. per 100 lb.	25s. per 100 lb.
Motor Cars and Trucks	10% *ad valorem*	30% *ad valorem*
Cement	2s. 4d. per 400 lb.	4s. 8d. per 400 lb.
Cotton Manufactures	10% *ad valorem*	20% *ad valorem*
Dried Cod Fish	2s. 6d. per 100 lb.	5s. per 100 lb.
Wheaten Flour	8s. 4d. per 196 lb.	12s. 6d. per 196 lb.
Rice	2s. 6d. per 100 lb.	3s. 9d. per 100 lb.
Implements and Tools (other than Agricultural)	10% *ad valorem*	20% *ad valorem*
Agricultural Machinery	Free	5% *ad valorem*
Industrial and manufacturing Machinery	Free	5% *ad valorem*
Fuel Oil	3d. per gallon	5d. per gallon
Gasolene	1s. per gallon	1s. 5d. per gallon
Common Soap	5s. per 100 lb.	7s. 6d. per 100 lb.
Cigarettes	8s. per lb.	11s. 2d. per lb.
Whisky	25s. per gallon	32s. per gallon
Tea	9d. per lb.	1s. 2d. per lb.
Lumber	14s. 7d. per 1,000 ft.	25s. per 1,000 ft.

The following are some of the items which are exempt from import duty, mainly in the interests of agricultural and industrial development :—

Empty bottles and containers for the export of produce; agricultural implements and tools; manures and insecticides; plants, seeds and bulbs; poultry-rearing appliances.

Export duties are levied as follows :—

Cocoa, Raw	
up to and including 35s. per cwt.	1s. per cwt.
over 35s., up to and including 40s. per cwt.	1s. 1d. per cwt.
over 40s., up to and including 45s. per cwt.	1s. 3d. per cwt.
over 45s., up to and including 55s. per cwt.	1s. 6d. per cwt.
and thereafter an increase of 3d. per cwt. for every rise of 5s. in the c.i.f. value per cwt.	
Jams and Jellies	2s. 1d. per 100 lb.
Tobacco	2d. per lb.
Essential Oils	1½d. per lb. to 1s. per lb. on c.i.f. values ranging from under 5s. to 35s. per lb. with additional export duty of 50 per cent.
Grapefruit (in boxes)	2d. per box
Oranges (in boxes)	4d. per box

Labour

The Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, can fix minimum wages in any occupation in which he is satisfied that wages are unreasonably low, and he can also appoint Advisory Boards to consider the wages being paid and to assist in the determination of fair rates of wages. Rates have so far been fixed for workers in agriculture, baking, and shops. A working day of eight hours is regarded as normal, and longer hours must be paid at overtime rates.

Digitized by Google

The employment of children under 12 years of age is prohibited, except by their parents or guardians in light domestic or agricultural work. Children under 14 are not permitted to be employed in industry, construction, transport, or on board ship (except ships the crew of which consist only of members of a family). Young persons from 14 to 16 may not be employed at night, and from 16 to 18 only in undertakings requiring a continuous process (e.g., raw sugar manufacture) as specified by the Governor in Council. Women are not generally allowed to be employed on night work.

In seasonal industrial undertakings the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may reduce the period during which night work is prohibited to 10 hours, instead of the normal 11 hours, for not more than 60 days in the year. The Governor in Council may make rules regarding the conditions of premises where persons are employed, and also regarding the daily hours of work of women, young persons, and children.

There is no law relating to labour exchanges, but the Labour Department acts as an employment registration office. Under the Trade Unions Ordinance of 1940, trade unions must be registered, and the Registrar has powers of discretion as to their registration (for example, if their objects should appear not to be legitimate). It is necessary for their rules, and any alteration in their rules, to be registered. In 1950 there were two trade unions, the Dominica Trade Union, a general union with 12 branches and a membership of 5,424, and the Dominica Teachers' Union, with a membership of 54, in three branches. There was also a Dominica Employers' Union with 45 members, comprising individuals or firms engaged in all forms of industry and commerce in the colony.

Workmen's compensation is payable by law for injuries or death arising out of employment ; the amounts payable in case of permanent total disablement are, for an adult, 48 months' wages or £400, whichever is less ; and, for a minor, 96 months' wages or £400, whichever is less. Permanent partial disablement is compensated at proportionate rates, and compensation is also paid for temporary disablement, partial or total, for periods up to five years. There is, however, no provision for compensation for occupational diseases. Factory legislation was placed on the Statute Book in 1941, but has not yet been proclaimed to be in force.

Under the Trades Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Ordinance of 1940, the Governor has powers to refer disputes between employers and employed to an arbitration tribunal, with the consent of both parties, though if conciliation arrangements exist within the industry concerned, these are to made use of first. The Governor can also refer an existing or apprehended trade dispute to a Board of Inquiry, which can make a report.

Land Tenure

The administration and disposal of Crown Lands are governed by the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1915 and the Crown Lands Regulations of 1933.

Crown Lands are sold at not less than 10s. per acre, plus survey and legal fees, and if there is more than one applicant for a plot of land, a public auction must be held. Government may stipulate the type of crops to be grown on Crown Lands which are sold, and they must be cultivated within a specific period, otherwise Government can resume possession. It is estimated that about 70,000 acres—out of a total of 194,000 acres—have been alienated, though only about 7,700 acres are under cultivation.

Most lands are held as freehold, but a large area is held by tenants under loose yearly tenancies for the cultivation of annual crops, a share of which is paid to the landlord. On termination of tenancies, tenants are entitled to a maximum compensation of £10 for unexhausted improvements. Provision also exists, where a regular contract has been drawn up and registered, for the payment of the actual assessed value of unexhausted improvements on termination of the period of lease.

According to the Agricultural Census of 1946, out of a total of 79,291 acres of farm land, 49,952 acres were owned by the cultivators, 6,412 acres were rented, and 22,927 acres were managed. Of a total of 4,895 farms of over one acre, 3,739 were under 10 acres, and 955 between 10 and 50 acres ; there were 89 properties of between 50 and 100 acres and 110 of over 100 acres. The number of large estates has been considerably greater in the past, but many of them have fallen into an abandoned or semi-abandoned condition as the result of the decline of lime and cacao cultivation.

On the windward coast an area has been made into a reserve for the small Carib population of the island. The general laws of the Colony apply in this reserve.

Aliens must first obtain a licence from the Governor in order to hold lands.

The entire fee simple (including mineral rights) of all lands (except Crown Lands) are vested in the proprietors. Crown Lands sold after the passing of the Crown Lands Ordinance of 1915 are subject to the reservation of all mineral rights by the Crown.

Immigration

A person landing in the Colony must satisfy the Immigration Officer that he possesses a sum of money sufficient to enable him to maintain himself, or is in possession of a return ticket.

Transport and Communications

On account of the mountainous nature of the island, internal communication is very difficult. Except for a track which is not suitable for vehicular traffic, there is no communication by road between the greater part of the windward district (east) and the leeward district (west). The only other form of communication between these two areas is by small locally-built dugouts which have extremely small carrying capacity and are only able to ply during a short period of the year, owing to the prevailing heavy seas on the windward or Atlantic coast. In the north, however, a small part of the windward area is connected to the second town—Portsmouth—on the leeward coast by an oiled motorable road some 30 miles in length. In most of the windward district itself there is only a system of earth roads, also not suitable for wheeled traffic.

On the leeward coast there is a small system of oiled motorable roads totalling about 50 miles and used by motor cars and trucks. It is supplemented by a coastal motor launch service which plies between Roseau and Portsmouth three times weekly, touching at certain points. Canoes also carry a fair amount of the traffic on the leeward coast, as the sea on that side is generally calm, and sailing craft are used to a small extent.

There are only two ports of entry, Roseau and Portsmouth. The former lies on an open roadstead, but Portsmouth has a good harbour. There are no railways and the rivers are not navigable. The inadequacy of communications is one of Dominica's chief economic problems.

At the end of 1950, there were in the island the following licensed motor vehicles : cars 138, trucks and buses 106, taxis and wagons 38, cycles 57.

Under the recently approved Ten Year Plan of Development, provision is made by loan and grant for the construction of a number of oiled roads for motor transport and for the improvement of peasant tracks at an estimated cost of £350,000. It is expected that this road construction programme will open up large areas and considerably increase the volume of the island's goods and passenger traffic.

External communication is maintained by ships of various commercial lines, sailing craft registered in the West Indies, and a number of motor vessels, also registered in the West Indies. Some of these provide a regular service ; others call intermittently.

The Canadian National Steamships Line, which calls at Dominica, provides a fairly regular passenger and freight service between Canada and the British colonies

Digitized by Google

of the eastern Caribbean. The Alcoa Line similarly provides a service with Canada and the United States of America and includes in its itinerary most of the colonial territories in the region. The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique runs a small weekly freight and passenger service which connects Dominica with Martinique, Guadeloupe and Antigua. Ships of the Harrison Line call at Dominica as cargo between the island and United Kingdom ports offers.

Recently a new service, provided under charter by the Belgian Fruit Line for Antilles Products, Ltd., has come into operation to carry bananas and other fresh fruit from Dominica to Dublin ; the ships also sail to Belgium. This service is at present approximately every three weeks, but is expected to become more frequent as the volume of fruit for these markets increases. Passengers are accepted for European ports.

Between Dominica and the neighbouring West Indian colonies, sailing craft and also a number of small motor vessels operate, and these carry most of the inter-island trade.

A weekly air service is operated to and from Barbados by planes of British Guiana Airways, which make use of the sheltered harbour at Portsmouth.

There are two Post and Money Order Offices in the Colony and also a number of district sub-offices for the posting and distribution of letters and non-dutiable postal packets. There are telephone exchanges in the six largest centres of population, and most of the smaller centres have access to the telephone system through connection to private subscribers or Police Stations.

A branch of Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd., serves the Colony. There is no broadcasting station, but there are numerous short-wave receiving sets.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

There are no accurate statistics of land resources, but it is estimated that there are considerable areas which are suitable for the cultivation of various crops but which are not being productively used, mainly because of lack of communications. This is particularly the case in the windward district. In addition, output from already developed areas could be increased several-fold if more enlightened agricultural practices were adopted.

According to the Agricultural Census of 1946, there were altogether 7,489 farms, of which 4,895 were over one acre in extent and 2,594 were small plots of less than one acre. Their total area was over 79,000 acres, of which 29,900 acres were in cultivation and a further 19,800 acres were cultivable ; the remainder was woodland or pasture. There are large areas of Crown lands which are at present inaccessible. In addition, there are considerable areas under forest which are largely unsuitable for cultivation on account of their steep slope.

Most agricultural operations are carried out by hand implements and there is little mechanization. In the past not much use was made of fertilisers, but the position is changing, especially in the rapidly developing banana industry.

The following is an estimate of the acreages under the various principal crops in 1950 :—

Limes	3,000 acres
Bananas	2,500 „
Oranges	700 „
Grapefruit	350 „
Coconuts	2,000 „
Cocoa	1,000 „
Vanillas	200 „
Sugar Cane	1,200 „
Food Root Crops	5,000 „

Since the end of 1948 upwards of 1,500 acres have been planted with bananas.

The large estates produce the greater part of the export crops, except vanilla, bay oil, and cocoa crops, which are mainly grown on peasant holdings. A considerable proportion of the bananas produced for export are also grown by the peasants.

The standards of animal husbandry and of the livestock population are not high. The 1946 Agricultural Census gives the number of livestock in the colony as follows : cattle 5,698, swine 6,094, sheep and lambs 3,379, goats and kids 5,110, horses 227, donkeys and mules 891, poultry 35,603. There is much scope for improvement in the breeding and management of livestock, and for increasing their numbers.

Soil erosion is a serious problem in Dominica, as might be expected in view of its rugged topography and high rainfall, and the system of shifting cultivation practised by the peasants. Prior to 1943, scant attention was paid to soil conservation practices, but recently limited progress has been made in checking erosion by the adoption of measures such as the planting of orchard crops on the contour, the digging of contour drains and the laying down of grass strips and stone barriers on sloping land. The creation of a Forestry Service of the Agricultural Department in 1949, to enforce the provisions of the Forest Soil and Water Conservation Ordinance, 1946, is expected to contribute materially towards lessening erosion. Under this Ordinance the Chief Forest Officer is to have the management of all Crown Lands, in which Forest Reserves can be proclaimed, where no land can be sold or granted. Lands other than Crown Lands can be proclaimed Protected Forests, in regard to which regulations can be made to prohibit timber felling, fires, clearing for cultivation, and the pasturing of livestock ; none of these activities are to take place on Crown Lands except with the permission of the Chief Forest Officer.

Plant diseases include Withertip disease, which is a serious hindrance to the growing of limes, and causes their cultivation to be localized in the drier coastal belt ; Panama disease of bananas, which virtually wiped out cultivation of bananas of the Gros Michel variety, and a *Fusarium* root disease of vanillas. There are, besides, the usual seasonal diseases of the various vegetable crops.

Local Food Products

The various root and tuber crops, consisting chiefly of dasheen, tannia, cassava, yams, sweet potatoes, form the most important element in local food production. There is some production of green vegetables, and from a nutritional point of view a larger consumption of them would be desirable. Most of the European vegetables grow quite easily, but they are not popular. Many kinds of tropical fruit are grown but supplies are not sufficient for local needs. The island produces its own requirements of coffee and cocoa.

There is need for increased production of pulses to supply vegetable protein, and the diet of the population is notoriously deficient in animal protein. Fresh milk is very scarce and the supply of flesh foods very deficient.

Cash Crops

Limes are the principal cash crop of the Colony. They are exported in the forms of distilled oil, raw juice, fresh fruit, and candied peel to the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and the British Dominions. Present annual production is estimated to be the equivalent of 110,000 barrels of 160 lb. of fresh fruit. The value of exports of the principal lime products—mostly lime juice and lime oil but including some fresh limes—has been about one-third of total exports in recent years.

Cocoa. Present production is about 150 tons per annum, but it is estimated that there is suitable land available in the Colony for it to be increased to 1,000 tons per annum. The recent rise in cocoa prices is an encouragement to increased production, and the Government is encouraging the rehabilitation and extension of cocoa planting by setting up a propagation station for the vegetative production of selected strains. Some of the island's output

Digitized by Google

is consumed locally as a beverage, but the greater part is exported ; in recent years exports have been mainly to the United States of America.

Bananas. Considerable areas of the island are now being planted with different varieties of bananas to meet the market created by the signing of a 15-year contract by the Dominica Banana Growers' Association for the whole of the island's output, and production has already risen and may be expected to rise still further. The bananas are being shipped to Eire and the United Kingdom in ships provided by the buyers, Antilles Products, Ltd. At the present time the Lacatan variety, which is resistant to Panama Disease (though susceptible to Leaf Spot Disease) is being planted ; an earlier banana industry, based on the Gros Michel variety, was virtually wiped out by Panama Disease. As a result of this, and because of shipping difficulties during the last war, exports were reduced to small quantities, which were sent only to neighbouring West Indian colonies.

Citrus (other than limes). Soil and climatic conditions in Dominica are very favourable for the production of oranges and grapefruit, and output is rapidly increasing. In the past these fruits have been shipped only in small quantities to other parts of the West Indies and to Bermuda, but prospects for export have been greatly improved as a result of the refrigerated shipping service now being provided by Antilles Products, Ltd., and the Colonial Development Corporation's packing and cold storage plant. A factory has recently been set up for the manufacture of juice and candied peel for export. It is expected that citrus growing will become the principal industry in Dominica.

Coconuts are exported—chiefly in the form of copra—to the neighbouring island of Barbados, for processing into edible oil, fats and soap. (See Appendix, page 274.) A small quantity of soap and oil is also manufactured locally. The present production of copra is estimated at 700 tons per annum. Though there is scope for an increase in production, it is not expected in the near future.

Vanillas. In recent years the annual production of vanillas, which are mainly grown by the peasants, has been about 40,000 lb. of cured beans ; it is not expected that market conditions will permit an expansion to much above this amount. There has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of cured beans since the introduction of legislation providing for a Government Inspection Service.

Bay Oil. This is a valuable minor industry, which is mainly carried on by the peasants. The oil is exported to the United States of America and Britain.

Rum. The production of rum has increased steadily over the past decade and average output in recent years is estimated at 110,000 gallons per annum, most of which is consumed locally. It is manufactured from the whole cane juice, and is not, as in most West Indian colonies, a by-product of the sugar industry, since Dominica does not produce sugar.

Other Fresh Fruits, including Avocado pears and mangoes, are shipped mainly to Bermuda and West Indian markets.

Forestry

More than three-quarters of Dominica is forest land, and the colony supplies a large part of its requirements of timber and its entire needs of charcoal and firewood. A fair amount of firewood is also exported to Barbados. Much of the forest area is, however, in a poor condition, as a result of shifting cultivation and destruction of the forest reserves, and one of the main duties of the Forestry Service which was established in 1949 is to prevent the continuation of this process. A report made in 1944 states that " along the leeward coast the hills are so eroded that no possibilities of rehabilitation either for forestry or agriculture appear to exist. In the southern half of the island practically all useful timber forest seems to have been destroyed ".*

Nevertheless, the island possesses timber resources which are potentially of great value. Most of the interior of the island is covered by forests which contain valuable hardwoods, but the lack of roads and the mountainous nature of the country make extraction difficult. There is a small lumber processing factory operating in the island, but felling and sawing on the spot are carried out by native woodsmen. At present royalties are not collected on felled timber. Current production is estimated at 600,000 board feet annually, of which 500,000 board feet is consumed locally.

As many as 214 distinct species of trees have been recorded in the island, though no comprehensive forest survey has been carried out. The following are the most important timbers.

(1) Heavy timbers of great natural durability.	Acoma, Balata, Bois lezard, Carapite, Courbasil.
(2) Heavy constructional timber of average durability.	Angelin, Balate, Bois bandé, Bouis, Caconier, Caimite, Coutrevent, Galba, Pain d'épice, 'Zolivier.
(3) Medium heavy timbers suitable for sawing into boards.	Bois pistolet, Bois riviere, Caconier, Gommier blanc, Mangle blanc, Mauricif, Poirier, Savonette, Tantacayo, Ti citron.
(4) Light timbers suitable for sawing into boards.	Bois blanc, Bois pain, Bois violon, Graines bleus, La glu, Lauriers (all), Simaruba.
(5) Suitable for shingles.	Bois blanc, Caconier, Lauriers, Pipirie.

Fisheries

Fresh fish forms the staple protein food of most of the inhabitants on the leeward coast of the island. Most of the catches are disposed of on the beaches of the villages or in the markets of the two towns. Fishing is almost impossible over the greater part of the windward district owing to heavy seas during most of the year. It is stated by fishermen that catches have been growing less in recent years, but there are no reliable data on the subject ; an estimate made by Dr. H. H. Brown in 1945 puts the annual catch at approximately 2½ million lb.†

According to the 1946 Census, there were 2,600 persons engaged in fishing, but only 690 of them were full-time fishermen. They made use of 834 vessels—which except for six motor boats and one decked sailing vessel were open sailing boats or dug-out canoes—and of various types of thread and twine nets and also fishing pots made from local materials. There is also a considerable amount of line fishing done in the open sea ; both flying fish and pelagic fish are caught. As facilities for storage do not exist the practice is to go out in the mornings and return with the catch in the afternoons.

There is a small amount of river fishing in the large rivers. The possibilities for pond culture of fish are under consideration.

Minerals

Except for some small deposits of sulphur there are no known resources of valuable minerals in Dominica, though no thorough geological survey has been made.

Manufactures

Local industries are mainly concerned with the partial processing of certain types of agricultural produce prior to export, e.g., the extraction of the juice of the lime fruit, which is subject to further refining at the export centres. The same applies to the curing of vanilla beans and the drying of copra.

There are also industries which are engaged in turning out the final product from the agricultural crop, e.g., the distillation of the essential oils of limes and bay, the manufacture of rum from sugar-cane, the recently established candied peel industry, which uses the skins of local citrus fruit, and the C.D.C. fruit packing and storage plant.

* *Forestry in the Windward Islands.* (Development and Welfare in the West Indies. Bulletin No. 11) p. 147.

† *The Fisheries of the Windward and Leeward Islands* (Development and Welfare Bulletin No. 20) p. 88.

Digitized by Google

There is a lumber processing factory and a small tobacco factory which produces cigarettes, cigars and leaf tobacco for local consumption and export. Manufactures for domestic consumption include bread, ice, soap, and aerated waters, and there are also printing, clothing, and furniture industries to meet the small needs of the population.

There has not been any census of industrial production and there are no statistics of the value of output or of capital invested. According to the 1946 Census 2,493 persons were engaged in local manufacturing industries ; the number has probably increased since that date. Scope is thought to exist for the development of manufacturing industries for export based on local agricultural production, e.g., fruit canning and preservation.

Village Industries

The production of hats, mats, bags and baskets from local straws and fibres, both for domestic use and for export, is a widespread minor industry. The value of annual production is estimated at $48,000 (£10,000).

In most sea-coast villages fishpots are made for local use from the pliable stem of the bamboo. There is a small pottery industry in one village which supplies the island's requirements for certain types of unglazed earthenware.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

The tourist trade has not been developed in Dominica, and almost the only visitors are those who come on cruise ships or regular lines which call for a few hours. The island lacks many of the conventional attractions for tourists. There are few sandy beaches, internal communications are difficult and the climate is not as dry as in most other West Indian colonies. There are no hotels of the type associated with a tourist trade, though there are a number of small boarding houses, most of which are in Roseau.

On the other hand, the island has great scenic beauty and it is possible that a valuable tourist industry, not of the conventional type, could be developed in Dominica. Its attractions would be mountain climbing, river bathing, and the island's profuse and varied flora. When the road development programme has been carried out, many attractive sites would be available for the erection of a modern hotel to cater for tourists.

Distributive Trade

There are a number of stores and shops retailing imported goods, the larger ones in addition doing a certain amount of wholesale trade. Most of them are in the two towns, but all villages have their small shops, though in some parts of the Windward district transport difficulties prevent the stocking of most imported goods during the greater part of the year.

There are market places in the towns for the sale of local produce, but in the villages, other than the largest, the people generally produce their own requirements of local goods, though fresh fish and meat are bought and sold.

The distributive trade is mainly in the hands of Dominicans, though a large proportion of the dry goods trade is controlled by Syrian merchants. According to the 1946 Census the number of persons engaged in distribution was 945.

Professions

The 1946 Census showed the following numbers engaged in the various professions : pharmacists 16, clergymen 29, lawyers 3, dentists 2, nurses 69, physicians, surgeons 6, school teachers 278.

Pharmacists are required to serve an apprenticeship under a certificated druggist and to pass an examination held by the Dominica Medical Board. Nurses must undergo a three-year course of training at one of the local hospitals. Physicians and surgeons must be persons registrable as such in Great Britain, but on account of a shortage of such persons, the local Medical Act has been amended to permit graduates of approved non-British universities or medical colleges to practise temporarily in the Government Medical Service. Dentists must be persons holding a diploma from some recognised dental college and are licensed by the Dominica Medical Board.

Lawyers must pass the final examination of the Council of Legal Education after registration with one of the British Inns of Court.

Teachers to be fully qualified and certificated must pass all the grade certificate examinations held by the local Education Department or secure the certificate of a recognised Teachers' Training College.

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement is young in Dominica ; the promotion of co-operative activities is entrusted to the Social Welfare Department, which came into existence in 1945.

Interest in co-operation has so far been displayed chiefly in the processing and marketing of agricultural produce, especially the products of limes, though one group engages in the distillation of bay oil. At the end of 1950 there were five societies operating with a total membership of 178 and an output value of $46,000 for the year. In 1948 the production of these co-operative groups constituted six per cent. of the island's output.

The Dominica Banana Association, formed in 1934 and registered under a special Ordinance, is co-operative in spirit even though not in name. It exists for marketing the bananas of its members, but it is also empowered to control the export of all bananas, and has recently signed a long-term contract for the whole output of the island.

There are no consumer societies, but in 1949 there were 25 thrift societies (savings unions), mainly in rural areas, with a total membership of 733. A Co-operative Ordinance under which societies can register was passed in 1949.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

The following are the 1946 Census figures of persons classifiable as skilled labourers in the principal trades:—

Bakers	178
Blacksmiths	25
Cabinet makers	84
Mechanics and repairmen	94
Sheetmetal workers, tinsmiths	25
Bricklayers, stonemasons	165
Carpenters	997
Shop Assistants	301
Painters, decorators	34
Plumbers, pipefitters	11
Motor vehicle drivers	53

The total number of skilled workers is given in the 1946 Census as 3,224, and of unskilled workers 8,976 ; the majority of the latter are engaged in agriculture. It is stated that 1,891 persons were engaged in personal service. Inadequate training facilities hinder the standard of skilled workmanship from being as high as might otherwise be the case.

Digitized by Google

The following wage rates were paid in 1950 in the principal trades :—

WAGE RATES

Agricultural labourers	Men, 80 cents ; women, 56 cents; juveniles, 48 cents—per day of eight hours.
Stevedores	$2·48 per day.
Chauffeurs	$1·92 to $2·40 per day.
Carpenters	$1·44 to $2·88 „ „
Masons	$1·44 to $2·60 „ „
Plumbers	$1·20 to $2·00 „ „
Painters	$1·80 to $2·50 „ „
Shop Assistants ..	$6·00 per six-day week.

The money wages of agricultural labourers are in many cases supplemented by access to free firewood on the plantations and often by purchase of some kinds of foods at prices less than the market price. Free housing is sometimes provided, but this is not general.

The demand for labour is mainly in the leeward area of the island where most of the island's economic activity is carried on, and the windward district, in which there is much persistent unemployment, serves to some extent as a reservoir of labour.

Migrant Labour

As already mentioned in the section on migration, there has for some years been an emigration movement to the Dutch islands of Curaçao and Aruba and to the neighbouring French island of Guadeloupe. Many of the emigrants, however, return after a few years. There is no significant immigration into the island. No precise statistics of migration are available.

The greater part of the emigration takes place by private arrangement, but there is legislation under which recruitment can be organized under the supervision of the Labour Department, and in this case the procedure as laid down by international agreement is broadly adhered to.

Remittances by emigrants are made by private arrangement and come through the banks and the Post Office. The Labour Department has not so far been requested to undertake payments on behalf of emigrants.

Fuel and Power (including Water)

The fuel mainly used in the various industrial undertakings at the present time is wood, of which the island has abundant supplies. On some of the estates direct water power is used for turning mills, etc., and the larger industrial undertakings, e.g., distilleries, generate steam for industrial power. Electricity has hardly begun to be used for industrial purposes.

The Government operates a small diesel electricity generating station which supplies current at night, chiefly for lighting Roseau. It is being used to full capacity and cannot supply new consumers. The rate charged is 30 cents per unit.

Agreement has recently been reached with the Colonial Development Corporation to undertake the erection and running of a hydro-electric generating plant to supply Roseau and surrounding areas with electricity, for both lighting and industrial uses, at the following rates :—

Lighting : 24 cents per unit during the first four years, with a subsequent reduction of one cent per unit each year to a maximum rate of 20 cents per unit.

Power : Six cents per unit during the first three years, and five cents per unit subsequently.

The plant is to consist initially of two 320 kW generating sets, with space for a third set to be installed if and when it is required. The island has abundant resources of water power, as is to be expected from its topography and its high rainfall.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

For many years Central Government expenditure has exceeded revenue, and the colony has consequently been grant-aided and its expenditure subject to Treasury control. This has come about as the result of a succession of plant diseases, especially of limes, in the late '20s and of two disastrous hurricanes in 1928 and 1930, which were followed by the general depression of the early '30s. Since the last war the financial situation has shown signs of improvement.

The following table shows Central Government revenue and expenditure during the period 1938 to 1950 :—

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year	*Local Revenue*	*Grants or Loans in aid of Administration (other than C.D. and W. grants)*	*Expenditure (other than C.D. and W. expenditure)*	*Expenditure on Development and Welfare Schemes*
	£	£	£	£
1938	64,939	5,000	69,857	—
1939	53,422	18,500	68,800	—
1940	58,182	8,000	70,485	—
1941	69,600	19,000	73,660	—
1942	75,014	22,000	87,610	15,632
1943	106,347	15,000	106,786	20,289
1944	127,139	—	145,216	26,423
1945	131,685	—	138,630	42,309
1946	167,294	15,000	150,270	113,289
1947	191,268 ($4·80 = £1)	—	179,102	20,571
1948	168,295 ($807,816)	— —	182,463 ($875,817)	20,516 ($82,421)
1949	205,650 ($987,120)	30,000 ($144,000)	262,211 ($1,258,612)	28,569 ($137,131)
1950 (revised estimates)	231,944 ($1,113,330)	— —	263,134 ($1,263,043)	117,863 ($555,744)

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the principal heads of local revenue and expenditure—actual amounts for 1948 and 1949, and estimates for 1950 :—

REVENUE

	1948 (*actual*)	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*approved estimates*)
	$	$	$
Import Duties	277,348	300,478	365,000
Export Duties	49,164	53,921	85,000
Excise Duties	109,800	121,563	126,000
Income Tax	45,612	105,589	107,710
Other Duties and Taxes (including Surtax) ..	75,759	82,509	93,110
Harbour Dues	24,780	27,490	30,500
Fees of Court, Licences ..	124,780	161,903	165,147
Post Office, Telephones, Electricity	97,250	132,209	207,500
Rents, Interest, etc. ..	3,307	1,478	1,800

EXPENDITURE

	1948 (*actual*)	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*approved estimates*)
	$	$	$
Governor	3,274	9,269	5,703
Legislature	4,568	4,582	4,804
Administration	22,306	40,025	53,990
Agriculture	68,428	140,434	128,602
Audit	4,939	10,401	10,363
Central Housing Authority	—	—	6,400
Charitable Allowances ..	21,456	23,721	29,665
Education	81,204	97,508	142,660
Legal, Judicial	25,482	38,824	38,663
Labour	3,763	5,146	5,876
Medical	123,800	136,724	174,340
Miscellaneous	99,532	160,959	49,742
Pensions	30,048	39,525	41,307
Police	81,427	117,359	129,489
Post Office, Telephones, Electricity	58,810	67,122	79,923
Prisons	23,688	23,605	28,629
Public Debt	18,087	18,008	18,396
Public Library	1,220	1,519	1,568
Public Works Department	28,049	35,773	47,694
Public Works—Annually Recurrent	82,442	100,069	103,462
Public Works—Extraordinary	46,066	115,937	95,840
Supply Control	4,635	7,051	8,191
Treasury, Subventions ..	42,593	65,501	56,907

The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st December, 1950, was as follows :—

PUBLIC DEBT

	$
Electricity Supply Loan, 1928 ..	28,800
Goodwill Estate Loan, 1946 ..	81,600
Colonial Development Fund Scheme No. 92—Cold Storage ..	1,724
Agricultural Loans—Watts Schemes	44,496
Loans to Cultivators on account of 1930 Hurricane	45,281
Plant Distribution—1930 Hurricane	18,449
Total ..	$220,350

The first two items of the above list were local loan issues.

As the revenue table shows, customs duties are the main source of revenue ; duties are payable on nearly all imported goods. Legislation recently passed gives the Governor acting in Council powers to remit duties payable on either imported or exported goods, and to defer payment of export duties on goods exported on consignment for a period not exceeding three months, if he is satisfied that it is just and equitable to do so. Excise duties are collected on rum and tobacco manufactured locally and for home consumption ; the yield of the rum duty—which is at the rate of 6s. 0d. per gallon—was estimated at $114,000 in 1949. A surtax of 25 per cent. is levied on all import duties, except those on butter, butter substitutes, chemicals, fish, grain and flour, meat, and oil, and of 50 per cent. on export duties on essential oils, green limes and vanilla.

Income tax is payable on income accruing in, derived from or received in the Colony. Rates of tax range from 2d. in the £ on chargeable income under £50, to 10s. in the £ on chargeable income over £3,000 ; allowances include 10 per cent. on earned income (up to a maximum of £100), £100 personal allowance, £50 for a wife, and £25 for each child under 16, or over 16 if receiving full-time education, and an allowance for life insurance. The tax on companies is at the rate of 6s. in the £.

There is no Estate Duty.

Local Government

As stated in the section on Local Government, the local government bodies in Dominica consist of the Roseau Town Council, the Portsmouth Town Board and Statutory Village Boards.

The main source of revenue in Roseau is the rates levied on the assessed annual rental value of all lands and buildings within the municipal area. Under the Roseau Town Council Ordinance No. 23 of 1937, the Town Council is empowered to levy by resolution a rate not exceeding 1¼ per cent. twice a year on the value of all houses and lots of land in the Town. The present levy is ¾ per cent.

The Portsmouth Town Board Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1949 were $960 (£200) and $2,659 (£554) respectively. This Board is a wholly Government-nominated body, and its expenditure greatly exceeds its revenue, which is obtained mainly from a low rate on land and house property.

The Village Boards have only very small sources of revenue, obtained from low rates, together with a grant from the Central Government equal to the amount of rates collected.

Currency and Banking

There is no local currency ; British coins, Government of Trinidad and Tobago currency notes, and the notes of the new Eastern Caribbean currency (see Appendix, page 273), are legal tender. The West Indian dollar has the ratio of $4·80 to the pound sterling. While most of the currency notes in circulation are now in British West Indies dollars, the whole of the coinage is still based on sterling.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) and the Royal Bank of Canada have each a branch in the Colony, and both issued bank notes prior to the introduction of the unified currency.

There is a Government Savings Bank ; the volume of its operations in recent years is indicated in the following table :—

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK

Year	*Deposits*	*Withdrawals*	*Balance to credit of depositors at end of year*
	£	£	£
1947	22,429	25,658	64,433
1948	23,514	25,956	51,304
1949	25,017	20,121	66,872
1950	25,776	19,379	73,269

The Government Savings Bank accepts deposits up to a maximum of $5,000 (£1,042) in any one account. Interest is paid on deposits at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

There is also the Dominica Co-operative Bank which receives savings deposits and makes loans. Its deposits at the end of 1950 amounted to £47,969.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1948			1949		
		Quantity	Value £	Main Sources £'000s	Quantity	Value £	Main Sources £'000s	Quantity	Value £	Main Sources £'000s
Flour	lb.	1,935,892	10,487	B.N.A. (9·6)	2,425,696	45,872	B.N.A. (45·6)	2,520,464	42,876	B.N.A. (42·8).
Cotton Piece Goods	yds.	483,097	9,863	U.K. (6·8), U.S.A. (2·7)	384,760	33,050	U.S.A. (25·2), B.N.A. (3·9), U.K. (3·4)	461,808	36,746	U.S.A. (19·1), U.K. (9·1), B.N.A. (7·3)
Sugar, unrefined	lb.	948,191	4,958	Leeward Is. (3·9), Barbados (1·1)	3,067,092	42,436	Barbados (32·1), Leeward Is. (10·3)	3,154,057	44,618	Barbados (31·3), Leeward Is. (13·3).
Fish, canned, dried and pickled	lb.	388,365	4,149	B.N.A. (4·0)	511,407	18,203	B.N.A. (18·1)	291,481	11,164	B.N.A. (11·0).
Meats, pickled, canned, smoked and cured	lb.	40,565	1,406	O.F.C. (0·5), B.N.A. (0·4)	130,747	8,722	B.N.A. (6·2), O.B.P. (2·0)	143,509	9,693	B.N.A. (4·9), O.B.P. (3·4).
Machinery	—	—	1,089	U.K. (0·5), U.S.A. (0·5)	—	18,669	U.K. (13·3), U.S.A. (3·1)	—	27,159	U.K. (18·1), U.S.A. (3·6).
Boots and shoes	pairs	33,001	3,940	U.K. (1·5), B.N.A. (1·0)	28,918	10,228	B.N.A. (5·7), U.K. (3·1)	38,367	13,428	U.K. (7·4), B.N.A. (3·9), O.B.P. (1·8).
Oils, edible	gallons	21,585	2,964	U.K. (2·3)	28,106	11,760	Barbados (11·6)	30,122	12,028	Barbados (11·6).
Oils, fuel and gas (including motor spirit)	gallons	97,281	3,190	O.B.P. (3·1)	186,137	9,941	O.B.P. (9·7)	205,960	9,993	O.B.P. (9·9).
Butter and substitutes	lb.	126,578	3,272	U.K. (2·4)	71,889	7,326	Barbados (4·1) (substitutes), O.B.P. (1·8) (butter)	74,440	6,402	Barbados (5·2) (substitutes), O.B.P. (1·2) (butter).
Metal manufactures	—	—	1,222	U.K. (1·0)	—	7,500	U.K. (3·4), U.S.A. (2·9)	—	11,411	U.K. (7·1), O.F.C. (1·9), U.S.A. (1·6).
Hardware	—	—	2,902	U.K. (1·5)	—	6,187	U.K. (3·4), U.S.A. (1·6)	—	8,768	U.K. (4·4), B.N.A. (2·1), U.S.A. (1·1).
Motor cars and lorries	number	7	1,185	U.K. (0·5), B.N.A. (0·5)	17	5,145	U.K. (2·8), B.N.A. (1·0)	32	10,980	U.K. (9·1).
Soap, common and fancy	lb.	190,348	2,274	U.K. (2·1)	103,137	5,214	Barbados (2·9), U.K. (1·3)	190,317	7,223	Barbados (5·3), U.K. (1·7).
Rice	lb.	373,149	1,831	O.B.P. (1·8)	343,473	4,093	O.B.P. (4·0)	114,776	1,400	O.B.P. (1·4).
Medicines and Drugs	—	—	2,562	U.K. (1·6), U.S.A. (0·5)	—	4,005	U.K. (1·9), B.N.A. (1·2)	—	5,057	U.K. (2·9), Barbados (1·0).
Cigarettes	lb.	6,962	1,793	U.K. (1·7)	14,066	5,426	U.K. (5·3)	13,553	5,379	U.K. (5·1).

B.N.A. = British North America, i.e., Canada and Newfoundland.
O.B.P. = Other British Possessions (not including British North America, Barbados, Leeward Islands).
O.F.C. = Other Foreign Countries (not including U.S.A.).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938 Quantity	1938 Value £	1938 Main Destinations £'000s	1948 Quantity	1948 Value £	1948 Main destinations £'000s	1949 Quantity	1949 Value £	1949 Main destinations £'000s
Fruits (fresh) total	lb.	5,970,280	24,418		4,343,410	40,375		9,694,946	62,669	
Avocado Pears	lb.	125,880	1,320	O.B.P. (0·8), Barbados (0·5)	418,380	8,893	Barbados (5·6), O.B.P. (2·5)	397,460	3,955	O.B.P. (2·1), Barbados (1·7).
Bananas	lb.	3,153,560	8,115	B.N.A. (6·8), Leeward Is. (1·3)	589,240	2,946	Leeward Is. (1·9), U.S.A. (0·8)	4,827,040	29,474	U.K. (27·5).
Grapefruits	lb.	385,440	1,894	B.N.A. (1·6)	572,960	5,223	Barbados (3·7), Leeward Is. (0·8)	1,374,800	7,974	O.F.C. (4·7), Barbados (2·0),
Lemons	lb.	21,600	95		17,730	119		104,140	1,035	U.K. (0·8).
Limes, green	lb.	682,100	5,285	U.S.A. (3·1), B.N.A. (1·4)	577,200	2,936	U.K. (1·4), B.N.A. (0·6) O.B.P. (0·5)	601,380	3,625	B.N.A. (2·2), Barbados (0·9).
Mangoes	lb.	713,700	2,366	O.B.P. (0·8), Barbados (0·6)	1,049,000	8,049	Barbados (3·4), O.B.P. (2·7), Leeward Is. (2·0)	1,009,896	5,669	Barbados (2·1), Leeward Is. (1·9), O.B.P. (1·7).
Oranges	lb.	888,000	5,340	Barbados (4·1)	1,118,900	12,209	Barbados (6·0), O.B.P. (2·5), Leeward Is. (1·8)	1,380,230	10,937	Barbados (4·1), O.B.P. (3·2), U.K. (3·1).
Lime Juice, raw	gallons	125,249	6,145	U.K. (3·5), B.N.A. (1·0)	589,672	76,204	U.K. (61·8), O.B.P. (9·9)	385,970	49,116	U.K. (35·9), O.B.P. (8·6).
Lime Oil, distilled	lb.	15,721	10,408	U.S.A. (4·0), U.K. (3·9), O.F.C. (1·8)	24,896	23,290	U.K. (12·6), U.S.A. (5·6), O.B.P. (2·7)	18,005	19,774	O.B.P. (8·4), U.S.A. (6·2), B.N.A. (3·0).
Bay Oil	lb.	28,666	3,966	U.S.A. (4·0), U.K. (0·6)	34,674	6,885	U.S.A. (4·2), U.K. (2·2)	36,583	6,886	U.S.A. (4·6), U.K. (1·4).
Cocoa, raw	lb.	391,095	3,292	B.N.A. (1·9), Leeward Is. (0·8)	420,886	33,389	U.S.A. (32·0)	330,204	18,041	U.S.A. (8·6), O.F.C. (8·5).
Vanilla	lb.	7,504	3,755	U.S.A. (2·9), Barbados (0·8)	51,909	32,118	U.S.A. (28·8)	68,823	32,081	U.S.A. (29·7).
Copra	lb.	239,680	1,042	U.K. (1·0)	671,852	12,792	Barbados (12·7)	1,183,426	23,206	Barbados (all).
Coconuts	number	1,139,069	3,358	B.N.A. (2·2), Leeward Is. (0·6)	408,693	2,895	Leeward Is. (2·4)	185,301	1,418	Barbados (0·7), Leeward Is. (0·7).

B.N.A. = British North America, i.e., Canada and Newfoundland.
O.B.P. = Other British Possessions (not including British North America, Barbados, Leeward Islands).
O.F.C. = Other Foreign Countries (not including U.S.A.).

Digitized by Google

Private Investment

Most investment in local enterprises is by private individuals who themselves manage the concerns. In addition, there are the following numbers of locally registered companies :—

(*a*) Public Companies limited by shares .. 3
(*b*) Private Companies limited by shares .. 7
(*c*) Public Company limited by guarantee .. 1

Under (*a*) all are locally controlled ; of (*b*) four are locally controlled and three externally controlled, and (*c*) is locally controlled.

Of the public companies limited by shares, the nominal capital totals $129,000 (£26,875) of which $33,521 (£6,984) has been paid up. The nominal capital of the private companies amounts to $766,410 (£155,669), of which $216,450 (£45,094) has been paid up.

There are no estimates of the total external commercial capital investment in the Colony, nor of the financial scale of operations of the various companies. There are no building societies.

National Income

A study of the national income is being undertaken under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies, but its results were not available in 1951.

The figures of total trade in recent years have been as follows :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Net imports (c.i.f.)	*Domestic exports (f.o.b.)*	*Re-exports (f.o.b.)*
	£	£	£
1938	87,579	62,186	15,387
1939	100,507	55,990	9,087
1940	102,879	81,153	11,405
1941	139,701	158,208	5,519
1942	112,300	151,926	3,375
1943	239,065	139,095	5,363
1944	268,251	204,087	6,247
1945	276,304	232,931	8,196
1946	388,814	176,921	14,975
1947	455,507	180,371	20,052
1948	372,570 ($1,788,336)	285,069 ($1,368,332)	37,768 ($181,287)
1949	467,060 ($2,241,887)	257,033 ($1,233,758)	27,056 ($129,867)
1950	851,470 ($4,087,056)	430,194 ($2,064,934)	24,750 ($118,798)

The tables on pages 230 and 231 show the quantities and values of the principal imports and exports in the years 1938, 1948, and 1949, and also the main sources of supply for imports, and destinations of exports, in each case.

Changes in the direction of trade, before and after the war, have been as follows :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

	Sources of imports			*Destinations of exports*		
	1938	1948	1949	1938	1948	1949
	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	40	22	29	16	38	36
Canada	23	30	24	23	2	3
Other Commonwealth countries ..	17	29	27	39	33	37
United States of America	12	17	16	19	23	19
Other foreign countries	8	2	4	3	4	5
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Cost of Living

An index of the cost of living is compiled monthly by the Labour Department, but as it is based on budgets of working-class families in Jamaica it does not give a very satisfactory measurement of changes in the local cost of living. The movement of the index in recent years has been as follows (September, 1939 = 100) :—

1945 (June)	..	171
1946 „	..	176
1947 „	..	218
1948 „	..	224
1949 „	..	237
1950 „	..	273

The prices of imported goods are controlled by restricting profit margins, but those of locally-produced goods are not now controlled. There is control of rents.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Particulars of the visible trade of the Colony are given in the tables below. The system of compilation of the statistics of value of exports is regarded as being in need of revision, and there is reason to believe that there is less difference between the values of imports and exports, and that the commodity balance of trade is therefore less persistently unfavourable, than the statistics indicate.

No estimates are available of the invisible items in the balance of payments, but on the credit side it is likely that family remittances from Dominicans abroad, Imperial Government grants-in-aid, and Colonial Development and Welfare grants and investment by the Colonial Development Corporation, are the most important items. It is probable that some smuggling with the neighbouring French islands affects both the figures of retained imports and of domestic exports.

There is an official licensing system for both imports and exports ; since 1948 dollar imports have been kept to a minimum, and imports from hard currency sources are restricted to goods unobtainable elsewhere and essential for the maintenance of a reasonable standard of consumption or for necessary maintenance and expansion of capital equipment. There is no general control or licensing of exports, but under the West Indies Fats and Oils Agreement coconuts can only be exported to Barbados, where they are processed. (See Appendix, page 274.)

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

A Sketch Plan for Development was issued in 1948. This contained three sets of proposals ; a Master Plan, containing all schemes regarded as desirable, the estimated total cost of which was £2,462,000 ; an Eight-Year Plan, which consisted of the Master Plan less works for which expenditure had already been incurred under the 1945 Colonial Development and Welfare Act ; and a Practical Plan, which allocated the £339,000 available to the colony from the amount granted to the Windward Islands under

Digitized by Google

the 1945 Act, approximately £297,000 of which still remained to be spent. This sum was small by comparison with requirements, and did not allow for any expenditure on roads, one of the island's most important, though most costly, needs. Since Dominica was a grant-aided colony, it was not in a position to make any contribution to development from its own resources, and to carry out all the schemes put forward in the Master Plan would have been financially impracticable.

It is acknowledged that the primary object of development expenditure in Dominica must be to render the colony economically self-supporting by making possible a better exploitation of its natural resources, and in accordance with this policy, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in giving general approval to the Practical Plan in June, 1949, considered that additional expenditure amounting to £450,000 should be incurred, including £350,000 for road development. An additional £260,000 was to be made available from C.D. and W. funds, and the balance was to be provided by an enlarged loan programme. Apart from projects being undertaken by the Colonial Development Corporation and any provision for loan charges, the total proposed expenditure amounted to £755,000, allocated as follows among the various items :—

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

	£	£
Roads (building of approximately 43 miles of new roads, including seven miles of trans-insular road, repair of 194 miles of tracks)		350,000
Agriculture and Forestry : includes—		
Agricultural Stations	39,500	
Agricultural Department	35,400	
Cocoa Propagation Service	25,500	
Agricultural Credit	30,000	
Forestry Service	35,300	
	——	169,513
Public Works : includes—		
Jetty at Roseau (with cranes)	39,865	
Goodwill Estate development	32,390	
River control, water supplies	10,600	
	——	94,434
Education : includes school buildings, teachers' houses		77,600
Medical Services : includes—		
Hospital extensions and rebuilding ..	24,280	
Health centre	10,800	
Anti-yaws campaign	8,300	
	——	43,380
Social Welfare—continuation of existing activities		13,473
Housing improvement		6,600

Some work has already been carried out on most of the above schemes. The Plan is to be reviewed in 1952, when three years will have elapsed from the time of its approval.

Other Development

In 1949 an agreement was made between the Colonial Development Corporation and the island Government, under which the Corporation is to undertake the following projects :—

(*a*) the installation of a hydro-electric plant to supply light and power to Roseau and its surrounding areas, with a guarantee to extend supply to other districts when the effective demand is sufficient to justify this.

(*b*) the erection of a plant for ice-making and the grading, refrigeration, and storage of fruit. The Corporation is also engaging in agricultural production and has bought two estates on which fruit is to be grown.

Other recent developments by non-Government agencies include the establishment in 1949 of a company financed from abroad, and registered locally as Antilles Products, Ltd., which has contracted to buy the island's entire output of bananas of the Puerto Rico variety for fifteen years and is itself engaged in planting bananas and other fruit. The provision of an assured market has led to considerable planting of bananas by local farmers.

A new firm with English capital has recently laid down plant for fruit canning, for the manufacture of citrus peels and for other forms of processing, and has begun the purchasing of fruit.

These various development projects are expected to bring about greater prosperity than the Colony has enjoyed for many decades, and it is hoped that they will make possible the introduction of ancillary industries and services and the improvement of housing conditions. There would appear to be further opportunities for investment in certain types of agricultural production and processing, especially if marketing abroad can be arranged in advance. Inadequate marketing arrangements, together with poor internal and external communications, have been the main reasons for Dominica having remained comparatively undeveloped. Also, the amount of capital investment required to bring about increased agricultural output is somewhat higher than in other parts of the West Indies, since tree crops, which are the main form of cultivation, take from five to eight years to come to full bearing.

Digitized by Google

GRENADA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Colony of Grenada includes the island of Carriacou about 20 miles to the north, and a number of islets lying between them known as the Grenadines. The island is the most southerly of the Windward Islands: it is situated between 11° 59′ and 12° 15′ north latitude and 61° 35′ and 61° 48′ west longitude and is 90 miles to the north of Trinidad. It is 21 miles long and 12 miles at its greatest breadth, and is estimated to cover an area of 120 square miles. The island of Carriacou is about 13 square miles in extent.

Grenada lies due north and south and is an irregular oblong in shape, broader at its southern than its northern end. A backbone of mountain traverses the whole length, nearer the western than the eastern coastline. The highest points are Mount St. Catherine (2,749 feet), Mount Sinai (2,300 feet), and the mountain overlooking the Grand Etang lake (2,014 feet). From the north-east and along the east and south-east, the mountains slope gradually towards the sea, and the tracts of country in those areas are comparatively level; but on the whole of the west coast the mountains run down to the sea. The south coast is deeply indented by numerous natural harbours.

In consequence of its formation the island is singularly beautiful, whether viewed from the sea or from one of its forest-clad heights. It is abundantly watered, being intersected in every direction, except the extreme south, by streams, though none of these are sufficiently large or constant to provide hydro-electric power. They enable pipe-borne potable water to be supplied to all towns and villages; additional services to meet the needs of the areas not previously served are in course of construction.

The island is divided into six parishes, five of which have a town situated on the seaboard, the management of each being entrusted to a semi-elected District Board. The whole question of Local Government is, however, under review by the Central Government. St. George's, the chief town, is situated on a sheltered bay in the south-western part of the island, and is the Headquarters of the Governor of the Windward Islands. The island of Carriacou is administered by the Central Government under the direct charge of a District Officer. A Town Authority, appointed by the Government, manages the affairs of the town of Hillsborough.

The climate may be regarded as mild for the tropics, and it is free from humidity. There are two main seasons; the dry season which extends from the end of January to the full moon in May, and the wet season occupies the rest of the year, but they are irregular and frequently overlap. The temperature in the dry season is most pleasant, falling as low as 65° at night even on the lower lands, while in the mountains it is relatively cold, and drops as low as 60°. In the wet season it is hot and appressive. The highest normal shade termperature is about 83° on the hills and 90° on the low lands, and this lasts for only a few hours in the day, the early mornings and the evenings usually being cool.

The rainfall varies very considerably according to locality, the average in the coastal districts being about 60 inches and in the mountainous interior 150 to 200 inches. At the Meteorological Station just outside St. George's, at an elevation of 507 feet, the average is about 70 inches, and at the extreme southern end, Point Saline, it is as low as 30 inches. The rainfall recorded at Carriacou averages 60 inches. The island is singularly free from storms and hurricanes.

There are three lakes in Grenada: Grand Etang at an elevation of 1,800 feet in the centre of the island occupying the place of a former volcanic crater and in the north lakes Antoine and Levera which are former ash craters. The levels of all these lakes vary seasonally, but there are no reliable records of the extent of variation. In the case of Grand Etang, however, the level has been known to drop as much as 18 inches in a year of pronounced low rainfall.

Population

At the time of the census of April of 1946 the population was 72,387, and as estimated at the end of 1950, 77,325—an average density of 581 persons per square mile.

The island is divided into parishes and towns, the population of each at the 1946 census being as follows :—

POPULATION BY PARISHES AND TOWNS, 1946

Parish	*Population*	*Town*	*Population*
St. George's ..	13,913	St. George's ..	5,774
St. John's ..	5,314	Charlotte Town	2,004
St. Mark's ..	1,929	Victoria ..	1,436
St. Patrick's ..	9,161	Sauteurs ..	874
St. Andrew's ..	16,545	Grenville ..	1,193
St. David's ..	7,460	—	
Carriacou ..	6,495	Hillsborough ..	276
	60,817		11,557

The population in 1946 comprised 31,834 males and 40,553 females. The following tables show the breakdown of population by main races and by age groups :—

RACIAL ANALYSIS OF POPULATION, 1946

Racial Origin	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Carib	50	63	113
Black	23,437	29,828	53,265
White	319	316	635
E. Indian	1,679	1,799	3,478
Mixed or Coloured	6,294	8,475	14,769
Other	55	72	127
Total ..	31,834	40,553	72,387

POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS, 1946

Age group	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
0–4	4,691	4,971	9,662
5–14	10,616	10,245	20,861
15–24	5,960	7,614	13,574
25–34	2,876	4,874	7,750
35–44	2,709	4,362	7,071
45–54	2,057	3,388	5,445
55–64	1,475	2,544	4,019
65–74	938	1,527	2,465
Over 75	482	1,012	1,494
N.s.	30	16	46
Total ..	31,834	40,553	72,387

Since 1946 there has been a steady increase in population; the birth-rate has risen and the death rate fallen. There has also been a decrease in the infant mortality rate. There is no large migratory movement at present, though some emigration has been taking place. The following table shows changes in the population since 1946 (figures in brackets represent rate per 1,000 of population) :—

POPULATION CHANGES, 1947–50

Year	*Population at*	*Live births*	*Deaths*	*Natural increase*	*Infant mortality (per 1,000 births)*	*Recorded migration*
1947	72,663	2,518 (34·4)	1,206 (16·5)	1,312 (17·9)	100·5	−411
1948	73,564	2,574 (34·7)	1,183 (16·0)	1,391 (18·7)	103·3	−236
1949	74,719	2,746 (36·5)	1,060 (14·1)	1,686 (22·4)	80·8	−492
1950	75,913	2,941 (38·4)	1,056 (13·8)	1,885 (24·6)	90·8	−473

Digitized by Google

Internal population movement is negligible, being confined to movements from rural to urban areas.

According to the 1946 census about 45 per cent. of the gainfully occupied population was engaged in agriculture, 14 per cent. in manufacturing concerns, and 12 per cent. in constructional work. The following table shows the breakdown of the gainfully occupied population according to industry :—

GAINFULLY OCCUPIED POPULATION ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY, 1946

	Numbers employed			*Percentage in each group*
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	%
Agriculture	6,670	5,762	12,432	45·03
Quarrying and Mining	4	3	7	0·03
Fishing and Hunting ..	492	3	495	1·79
Forestry	133	3	136	0·49
Manufacture	1,775	2,205	3,980	14·42
Construction	2,436	902	3,338	12·09
Transport	587	54	641	2·32
Commercial Finance ..	896	1,388	2,284	8·28
Services	1,161	2,914	4,075	14·76
Other	145	73	218	0·79
Total	14,299	13,307	27,606	100·00

Social Amenities

Education

Primary education is provided in 55 schools, 13 of which are maintained entirely by the Government, the remainder being denominational schools in receipt of grants-in-aid from the Government. There are also five Housecraft and five Handicraft centres. All teachers' salaries are provided by the Government, and for the most part the schools are maintained from public funds, except for the maintenance of the school buildings. The Government is gradually replacing dilapidated school buildings by Government-owned buildings constructed to a standard model and leased to the denomination concerned ; ten such school buildings have been completed in the five years ending 1950.

Government expenditure on primary education has been rising steadily in recent years, the amount in 1944 being £20,226 compared with £39,910 in 1948, £43,100 in 1949 and £60,937 in 1950. The total amount contributed by denominations (exclusive of the rental value of buildings) was £627 in 1948.

In 1950 there were 18,526 children enrolled out of an estimated primary school population (6–15 years) of 19,000. The average attendance was about 66·5 per cent. of the number on the roll. Compulsory school attendance is enforced in two areas only, where accommodation is regarded as adequate, but its general enforcement will be facilitated by the provision of improved accommodation consequent upon the Government's policy of replacing dilapidated school buildings.

About one child in 22 receives secondary education. There are five secondary schools which in 1950 had a total roll of 1,043 pupils. Two of these schools are for boys, two for girls, and one is co-educational. The expenditure on secondary education has increased from £9,300 in 1948 to £11,830 in 1950, and the estimated expenditure in 1951 was £14,250.

No facilities for technical education exist at present, other than an apprenticeship scheme operated by the Public Works Department.

Health

The general health of the Colony is fairly satisfactory. There have been no epidemics of infectious diseases in recent years.

On the north-eastern coast of the island malaria is often met with, but as a result of anti-malaria measures very few cases now occur in the rest of the Colony, especially around the capital town of St. George's. Permanent anti-malaria drainage work is being undertaken in other parts of the Colony, and house-to-house spraying with D.D.T. in certain malarial districts has proved most satisfactory.

Since 1948 an Anti-Venereal Disease and Yaws Campaign, with a special unit, has been organised, and large numbers of cases have been seen and treated with most satisfactory results. It had been estimated that the incidence of syphilis amongst the labouring class was approximately 20–25 per cent. It is hoped in a comparatively short time to eradicate yaws from the Colony and to bring the incidence of venereal disease down to a more satisfactory level.

Attempts are being made to reduce the infant mortality rate, which has varied between 90 and 120 per 1,000 live births for many years, and in 1949 the rate fell to 80·8. Maternity and child welfare work is now being performed not only in the three Health Centres but also in the 21 District Medical Visiting Stations. A School Medical Service has recently been organised and a whole-time School Medical Officer appointed.

To improve sanitation and as an anti-helminthic measure a private bore-hole latrine campaign organised by the Sanitation Department has been running successfully during the past two years.

At the end of 1950 hospital accommodation was as follows :—

Colony Hospital	205 beds
St. Andrew's Hospital	32 ,,
Carriacou Hospital	22 ,,
Isolation Hospital	20 ,,
T.B. Hospital	24 ,,
Mental Hospital	170 ,,

In addition there were Health Centres at St. George's, St. John's and St. Mark's and numerous District Medical Visiting Stations.

The nutritional state of the population is fairly satisfactory, though there is a deficiency of protein, vitamin B, calcium, and iron in the diet of the labouring classes. The Medical Department, with the co-operation of the Agricultural, and Education Departments, demonstrates to the public the value of properly balanced diets, and through Infant Welfare clinics, where advice and treatment are available, is improving the standard of nutrition among infants. The provision of meals at the various schools throughout the colony is improving the nutrition of children of school age.

Housing

The standard of housing in towns is good save for the slum areas, where overcrowding is the main problem. Improvement of housing conditions among the labouring population is one of the Colony's greatest needs. A Central Housing and Planning Authority has been constituted to deal with the problem, and progress with house building has been made in St. David's and Victoria ; there are also schemes for re-housing in St. Paul's and Grenville.

There is one Building and Loan Association providing building loans.

Social Security

There is no provision for unemployment or old age pensions, but the Government provides out-door relief for indigent persons and maintains a House of Refuge capable of accommodating 140 inmates. In 1950 there were 730 persons in receipt of out-door relief and 46 resident in the House of Refuge.

There are 99 registered and functioning Friendly Societies, with membership totalling 19,925 and funds amounting to £15,186. Their operations are regulated by statute.

There is no Post Office Savings Bank, but a Government Savings Bank established in 1881 has branches throughout the Colony. Deposits at the end of 1948 amounted to £229,638 and depositors numbered 7,369.

Digitized by Google

The Grenada Co-operative Bank, Ltd., which was established in 1932 with an authorised capital of $150,000 ($136,423 fully paid up) caters primarily for the small depositor. Its depositors in 1948 numbered 8,000, with deposits amounting to $497,248.

Political Structure

Grenada, with St. Vincent, St. Lucia and Dominica, belongs to the Group known as the Windward Islands. There is a single Governor for the Group and each Colony is administered by an Administrator. In each Colony also there is an Executive Council consisting of the Governor, the Administrator, two *ex officio* members, one official member appointed by the Governor, one member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor, and three members elected by the Legislative Council from among their number. The Legislative Council is composed of three *ex-officio* members (the Administrator, the Attorney-General and the Treasurer), three nominated members and eight elected members. The Governor is President of the Council, and has only a casting vote, which is exercised by the Administrator, in addition to his original vote, when the Governor is not present. Adult suffrage for elections to the Legislative Council was instituted in 1951.

Municipal affairs are entrusted to a semi-elected District Board in each of the six parishes, membership varying between eight and 14 according to the importance of the parish. In the dependency of Carriacou the affairs of the town of Hillsborough are managed by a Town Authority nominated by the Governor.

The principal departments of the administration are the Government Office (Secretariat and Administration), Treasury (including Customs, Shipping, Savings Bank, Inland Revenue, Excise and Income Tax), Public Works (including Road and Water Supplies), Agriculture, Medical (including Sanitation and Public Health), Education (Secondary and Primary), Police, Prisons, Post Office, Audit, Judiciary, Legal, Labour and Electricity (including Telephones).

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The law relating to Companies is contained in the *Companies Ordinance* (Cap. 47 of the Revised Laws of Grenada), as amended by the *Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 12 of 1941*, and rules and orders thereunder.

The *Excise Ordinance* (Cap. 79) as amended, governs the distillation and disposal of spirits.

The *Licences Ordinance* (Cap. 121) contains the law relating to licences (other than Liquor Dealers' and Excise Licences, or licences relating to firearms or for the purchase of cocoa, nutmegs and cotton).

The *Liquor Dealers' Licences Ordinance* (Cap. 123) contains the law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor.

The *Sale of Produce Ordinance* (Cap. 207), as amended, deals with the sale of cocoa (including wet cocoa), nutmegs, cotton, copra, limes, lime juice and lime oil, and the licensing of dealers engaged in this trade. Examples of charges for licences payable at the end of 1950 were: $24 a year for dealers in all licensable produce, $14·4 for dealers in licensable produce other than nutmegs and mace, $9·6 for dealers in cotton, and $4·8 for dealers in lime products.

The *Income Tax Ordinance* (Cap. 103), as amended, provides for the levying and collection of a tax upon incomes. Rates of tax current at the end of 1950 ranged from 3 cents in the $ on the first $500 of chargeable income up to 50 cents in the $ on chargeable income of $2,500 or over.

The *Taxes Management Ordinance* (Cap. 221), as amended by the *Taxes Management (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 2 of 1937*, and the *Taxes Management (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 3 of 1947*, contains the law with respect to the management, assessment and collection of Land and House Taxes.

Rates of Land and House tax in force at the end of 1950 were as follows :—

Land Tax : 24 cents per acre.

House Tax : this ranges from $1·2 on an assessed annual value of $24–28·8 to 8 per cent. on property of assessed annual value of $144 and over.

Trade Tariffs

The *Customs Duties Ordinance* (Cap. 59), with its many amendments, constitutes the law in force relating to Customs Duties. The *Customs Duties (British Preferential Tariff) Regulations*, made under section 3 (2) of the Ordinance, give particulars of preferences granted under the British Preferential Tariff.

The law relating to Export Duties is contained in the *Export Duties Ordinance* (Cap. 80), as amended.

Examples of the principal import and export duties in force at 31st December, 1950, are given below :—

PRINCIPAL IMPORT DUTIES, 1950

Article	*British Preferential Tariff*	*General Tariff*
Beer, ale, stout and porter	70 cents per gallon	$1·00 per gallon
Bicycles, tricycles and cars, motor with at least 95% British Empire content	10% *ad valorem*	10% *ad valorem*
Bicycles, tricycles, cars, motor other than above	15% *ad valorem*	35% *ad valorem*
Cement	24 cents per cask of 400 lb.	96 cents per cask of 400 lb.
Cotton :		
piece goods value 72 cents and under per yard	5% *ad valorem*	7½% *ad valorem*
piece goods value over 72 cents per yard	15% *ad valorem*	22½% *ad valorem*
Flour wheaten	$1·20 per 196 lb.	$1·80 per 196 lb.
Implements and Tools :		
Agricultural	free	5% *ad valorem*
Other	10% *ad valorem*	15% *ad valorem*
Spirits :		
Whisky and Brandy not exceeding proof	$6 per gallon	$6·36 per gallon
Whisky exceeding proof	$7·20 per proof gallon	$8·04 per proof gallon
Gin not exceeding proof	$6 per gallon	$6·36 per gallon
Gin exceeding proof	$7·20 per proof gallon	$7·92 per proof gallon
Rum not exceeding proof	$5·40 per gallon	$5·76 per gallon
Rum exceeding proof	$5·40 per proof gallon	$5·76 per proof gallon
Tobacco		
Black leaf	36 cents per lb.	36 cents per lb.
Other leaf	$1·20 per lb.	$1·20 per lb.
Cigars	$2·88 per lb.	$3·84 per lb.
Cigarettes	$2·80 per lb.	$3·76 per lb.
Snuff	72 cents per lb.	$1·08 per lb.

In addition to the above rates of duty, beer, stout, ale, porter, spirits, tobacco and snuff and wine bear 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty and all other dutiable items listed in the Customs Tariff, 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Digitized by Google

EXPORT DUTIES, 1950

Article	*Rate*
Nutmegs	12 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the amount by which the net price exceeds 10 cents.*
Mace	24 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the amount by which the net price exceeds 40 cents.*
Cocoa	12 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the amount by which the net price exceeds 18 cents.*
Coconuts	24 cents per hundred.
Copra	6 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the price received in excess of 5 cents per lb.
Nutmeg Oil	2 cents per lb., plus an amount equivalent to the additional export duty payable on a corresponding quantity of defective nutmegs calculated on the basis of 8 lb. of oil to 1 cwt. defective nutmegs.
Cotton	24 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the gross price in excess of 24 cents per lb. c. and f. or c.i.f. port of destination at which the cotton is finally sold.
Cotton Seed	6 cents per cwt., plus 20% of the gross price in excess of $36 per ton c. and f. or c.i.f. port of destination at which the cotton seed is finally sold.
Raw Lime Juice ..	6 cents per 100 gallons, plus 20% of the gross price in excess of $1 per gallon c. and f. or c.i.f. port of destination at which the concentrated lime juice is finally sold.
Distilled Lime Oil ..	12 cents per lb., plus 20% of the gross price in excess of $4·80 per lb. c. and f. or c.i.f. port of destination at which the lime oil is finally sold.
Poultry	2 cents per head.
Goats and Sheep ..	24 cents per head.
Pigs	36 cents per head.
Asses	$1·20 per head.
Horses and Mules ..	$2·40 per head.
Cattle (including calves)	$1·20 per head.
Other animals ..	24 cents per head.

* "Net price" is defined as the price per lb. which would have been obtained by the exporter for the sale of a similar quantity of the article delivered free on board ship at the port of St George's. In the case of nutmegs and mace the levy payable under the *Nutmeg and Mace (Reserve Pool) Ordinance*, 1942, is to be deducted in arriving at the "net price".

Labour

The *Department of Labour Ordinance, No.* 16 *of* 1940, authorises the establishment of a Labour Office.

The *Department of Labour (Amendment) Ordinance No.* 6 *of* 1941, makes it an offence for an employer to pay wages to his employees lower than the prescribed minimum rate for such labour.

The *Department of Labour Ordinance, No.* 68 *of* 1942, outlines the powers of the Labour Officer, which include inspection of the nature and extent of work of agricultural labourers, the collection of statistics relating to the numbers, rates of wages, hours of work, cost of living, etc., of persons employed in the various undertakings in the Colony, and conciliation in disputes between employers and employees.

The *Department of Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, No.* 39 *of* 1949, provides for the payment to agricultural labourers of a minimum daily wage.

The *Labour (Minimum Wage) (Shop Assistants) Ordinance, No.* 48 *of* 1947, provides for the payment of minimum rates of wages to shop assistants.

The *Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance, No.* 20 *of* 1951, contains the law relating to Trade Unions. The main provisions of the Ordinance are as follows :—

(1) Every Trade Union, together with its rules, must be registered within three months of the date of its formation.

(2) The accounts of each Union must be audited by a fit and proper person appointed by the Registrar of Trade Unions, who is appointed by the Governor.

(3) Trade Unions are immune from actions of tort.

(4) Intimidation or annoyance are offences.

(5) Peaceful picketing is lawful.

The *Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No.* 19 *of* 1934 (*as amended*), makes employers liable for the payment of compensation in respect of personal injury and disease attributable to a specific injury to a workman as a result of an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. The rates payable in accordance with the degree of disability are prescribed in the Ordinance. An injured workman must submit himself for medical examination.

The *Tenants' Compensation Ordinance, No.* 18 *of* 1939, enables an agricultural tenant to receive compensation when terminating the tenancy of a holding for improvements made by him to the holding.

The *Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance No.* 5 *of* 1943, provides for the establishment of an Arbitration Tribunal and a Board of Inquiry in connection with trade disputes, and makes provision for the settlement of such disputes and for enquiring into economic and industrial conditions in the Colony.

The *Wages Council Ordinance, No.* 4 *of* 1951, empowers the Governor in Council to establish Wages Councils to make wage awards and regulate conditions of employment.

The *Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance, No. 8 of 1934 (as amended)*, provides that no child under 14 shall be employed, and that no young persons (under 18) or women shall be employed at night in industry, except that in certain continuous processes, young persons between 16 and 18 may engage in night employment ; also, the Governor in Council may make regulations authorising the employment of children by their parents in light agricultural or horticultural work.

Land Tenure

The *Law of Real and Personal Property Ordinance* (Cap. 116), deals with the necessity for written documents other than wills, and makes provision, *inter alia*, for the enforcement of rights of creditors against the estates of deceased persons.

The *Crown Lands Ordinance* (Cap. 57), provides for the vesting in the Governor of certain named lands situate in the Colony, and of all other lands in the Colony which now are or may hereafter become vested either in the Governor, or in the Governor in Executive Council, or in the Governor and the Executive Council, or in the Treasury, or in the Crown, for the public uses of the Colony. The Ordinance provides that lands so vested in the Governor shall be called Crown Lands.

The Ordinance empowers the Governor in Council to grant, sell, exchange or lease any of the Crown Lands, or any right or easement in or over them or any of them for such price or consideration or rent, and for such estate or term of years and on such conditions and with such reservations, if any, as he may think reasonable.

The Ordinance provides that all mines of gold or silver, and all other precious metals existing in the form of alluvial deposits in or under any land in the Colony shall be reserved to the sole use and benefit of the Crown.

The *Land Settlement Ordinance* (Cap. 112), gives the Governor in Council power to purchase, take or lease lands for the purpose of providing small holdings for Land Settlement purposes. If the Governor in Council is unable by agreement and on reasonable terms to acquire suitable lands for this purpose, he had power under the *Land Acquisition Ordinance*, 1945 (No. 3 of 1945), to acquire land compulsorily, whenever such land is required for public purposes.

The *Aliens (Land Holding Regulation) Ordinance* (Cap. 4), deals with the holding of land by aliens and companies under alien control.

Digitized by Google

Immigration

The *Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance*, 1936, provides for the appointment of Immigration Officers and lays down the conditions of immigration.

Transport and Communications

The system of internal communication is confined entirely to roads, except that the outlying islets depend on sailing vessels for their means of transport. The road system of the Colony at the end of 1950 consisted of 403 miles divided into four classes according to the standard of construction. About 200 miles of these roads had oiled surfaces, with widths varying from 12 to 18 feet on first and second class roads, and 10 to 14 feet on third and fourth class roads. There is a first-class coastal road running all around the island, and also across it in two directions. The roads generally are well distributed and form a fair network of internal communication adequate to the needs of producers at any point. Transport is provided by motor vehicles up to a limit of five tons per vehicle on major roads. In recent years a good deal of work has been done to widen surfaces, to open up and improve corners and to clear the line of sight at sharp curves.

There is a good and well-sheltered natural harbour at St. George's, which has a deep-water pier with an average depth of 30 feet alongside, which can accommodate two ships of about 5,000 tons at one time. Government warehouses are provided on the pier, and cargoes are discharged directly into the warehouses. Pilotage is advisable but not compulsory. Dues are levied on cargo landed or loaded at the rate of 4s. per ton, while Harbour dues on a sliding scale based on the tonnage of the ship are payable on each ship entering the port.

There is a landing field on the north-eastern coast of the island with a runway of 5,280 feet long and 150 feet wide. The surface is bitumen-treated and the foundation is bouldered and constructed to stand landing weights up to 300 pounds per square inch. Planes (14 and 21 seater) operated by British West Indian Airways, connecting with the neighbouring islands, make daily calls.

There is a telephone network covering the whole island, and there is also a telephone service in the dependency of Carriacou. Cable and Wireless (West Indies), Ltd., operate a station in St. George's, and the Government operates a radio and wireless transmitting and receiving station at Carriacou.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Of the total acreage of the Colony—about 85,120 acres—it was estimated, at the time of the 1946 census, that some 69,416 acres (81 per cent.) were in farms of not less than one acre; this acreage comprised :—

Cultivated land	39,604 acres
Other cultivable land ..	11,348 ,,
Pasture	6,996 ,,
Woodland	8,507 ,,
Other land	2,961 ,,
Total land in farms ..	69,416 acres

The number of farms over one acre in size in April, 1946, was 6,528, giving an average acreage of 10·64 acres per farm. Approximately one half the cultivable area is under estate cultivation and the remainder under small-holdings. There are no large estates in Grenada, all land being held by small planters and peasants.

By 1950, the cultivated area had increased to 41,134 acres, comprising the following crops :—

Nutmegs	11,087 acres
Cocoa	15,379 ,,
Coconuts	4,638 ,,
Sugar Cane	1,620 ,,
Citrus	1,200 ,,
Arable (food crops) ..	7,200 ,,
	41,134 acres

Cultivation of cocoa, nutmeg, coconuts and sugar-cane is virtually confined to Grenada Island; Carriacou concentrates on the production of cotton and grain crops.

Hand cultivation is practised almost exclusively for all crops. On account of the topography of the island and the relatively small agricultural units, mechanical tillage has very limited possibilities, particularly in the case of tree crops.

Soil erosion is a major problem and cultivators are being encouraged to apply such soil conserving measures as contour ridging and the planting of contour grass barriers. Small numbers of animals are kept, mainly for milk, and a policy of grading up of the local stock by the use of high grade Jersey sires is being pursued. Milk yields are low, averaging about one gallon per day.

Three agricultural stations have been established, at Westerhall, Mt. Moritz, and Tivoli, where experiments with food and fodder crops are undertaken, soil conservation measures demonstrated and stud farms maintained. These stations also provide planting material and livestock for farmers. There is, as well, a demonstration farm on Carriacou Island.

Artificial fertilizers are used, but to a very limited extent. Manurial trials are in progress to determine suitable combinations for the several soil types and to compare pen-manure with equivalent dressings of artificials. Although the island is well watered, little use is made of irrigation.

The most serious pests and diseases are those which attack the cocoa crop, e.g., the cocoa beetle (*Steiratoma depressum*) and Witches' Broom disease.

Local Food Products

Local food crops such as maize, ground provisions and fruit are grown in fair quantities by small holders and tenants on estates, but the supply is not fully adequate. The 1946 census showed that some 9,300 acres were under grain, pulses and vegetables. Rice and wheat flour, salted meat and fish, oils and fats, are among the chief essential imports. The Colony may be regarded as self-supporting as regards fresh meat and poultry, but milk supplies are inadequate and appreciable quantities of condensed and powdered milk are imported annually. The existence of a small sugar factory has encouraged the planting of sugar cane. The factory has a capacity of 2,500 tons refined sugar per annum, which is roughly equal to the local demand, but lack of cane supplies has generally restricted output to between 800 and 1,500 tons per annum, though production in 1949 was 1,636 tons.

The livestock population in 1949 was estimated as follows :—

LIVESTOCK POPULATION 1949	
Cattle	7,500
Horses	6,000
Sheep and Goats	9,000
Swine	7,500
Poultry	80,500

Cash Crops

The most important cash crops exported are cocoa, nutmegs, lime products, coconut products and, from Carriacou, cotton. Small quantities of livestock and fruit, and spices other than nutmeg, are also exported.

Digitized by Google

Cocoa

The total area under cocoa is estimated at about 15,000 acres. In many cases cocoa and nutmeg trees may be found in the same field. As a result mainly of economic difficulties, but also on account of the senility of the trees and the ravages of pests, production has steadily declined from 135,500 cwt. in 1908 to 40,000 cwt. in 1950.

In Grenada, unlike the majority of cocoa-growing areas, cocoa is normally grown without permanent overhead shade, and is intensively cultivated. Cultivation, pen-manuring, draining and liming have been normal practices for decades. Some system of windbreaks is always provided, and the normal spacing for the trees is 10 ft. by 10 ft. Artificial manures are used by some growers.

Both small holders and estates engage in the growing of cocoa, and although the standard of cultivation on small holdings is usually somewhat inferior to that on estates, it is nevertheless good. The standard of cultivation on both small holdings and estates is greatly influenced by the prevailing price of cocoa. Yields are extremely variable, not only from season to season but between estates and fields. Yields of nearly a ton of cured cocoa per acre have been reported over small areas, but it is likely that an average yield for the island would not exceed 4 to 5 cwt. per acre.

There is no central marketing body. Producers dispose of their produce individually or through commercial firms. Small holders usually sell to licensed dealers whose premises are subject to Government inspection. The produce is also subject to inspection prior to shipment.

In recent years the cocoa trees have been attacked by Witches' Broom disease, but it fortunately appears to be confined to heights above 2,000 feet. The disease is being countered by the replacement of existing cocoa by selected and tested high-yielding clones. Under the Cocoa Industry improvement scheme, which is being financed by C.D. and W. grants, cultural experiments are being conducted and over 50,000 plants were distributed to farmers in 1950.

Nutmegs

Grenada is the only British colony in which nutmegs are grown on a large scale, and it contributes about one-third of world production. They are grown from seed and trees come into bearing when seven or eight years old. The crop is grown mostly at the higher altitudes and on the steeper slopes, though some nutmegs are planted with cocoa in the lower lying areas which are more suited to cocoa. Little is known about the manurial requirements of the crop or various soil types and indeed very little scientific research work has been carried out on nutmegs. Male and female flowers are produced on different trees, which occur in varying proportions in different fields. Trees are planted at various spacings, but 30 ft. by 30ft. is the most popular. It is estimated that an average yield of 3–4 cwt. per acre for nutmegs and 70–100 lb. per acre for dried mace is obtained over the island.

The price of nutmegs rose steeply during the war years, and current prices are regarded as satisfactory. A Co-operative Association has recently been formed for the marketing of nutmegs and mace, and has been granted the sole right to export those products. A small quantity of nutmeg oil is exported.

Cotton

Cotton production is virtually confined to the dependency of Carreacou where, at the time of the 1946 census, there were 1,060 acres under cotton on some 285 farms of one acre and above. The majority of the farms were small, 229 of them being less than five acres in extent. The type of cotton produced is known as "Marie Galante", and is exported chiefly to the United Kingdom.

The following table shows exports of the principal items of agricultural produce during the period 1938–50 :—

EXPORTS OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, 1938–50

Year	*Cocoa*		*Nutmeg*		*Nutmeg Oil*		*Mace*		*Cotton*	
	tons	£	*tons*	£	*lb.*	£	*tons*	£	*tons*	£
1938	4,269	126,920	1,813	74,625			254	38,995	103	2,588
1939	3,592	106,877	1,916	73,933			344	49,457	100	3,677
1940	2,803	113,315	2,095	79,596			275	38,507	103	4,767
1941	3,237	145,195	1,910	97,137			325	60,120	134	6,985
1942	2,657	145,906	1,876	241,750	490	315	340	92,757	148	8,749
1943	3,515	192,233	2,270	269,173	470	420	335	69,649	90	5,133
1944	3,118	186,500	2,572	295,351	1,539	1,161	338	72,379	76	4,959
1945	2,912	181,462	2,341	290,535	3,394	4,239	338	77,883	74	4,367
1946	2,591	206,493	2,462	408,453	7,065	5,834	425	129,989	54	6,182
1947	2,312	338,583	1,770	442,325	270	351	295	155,781	55	6,624
1948	2,625	327,035	900	208,103	2,430	2,742	202	103,251	23	1,590
1949	2,424	364,347	2,241	347,086	3,690	3,399	315	123,293	67	13,440
1950	2,011	507,215	3,079	670,328	6,280	6,703	325	151,404	106	23,371

Forestry

It is estimated that about 28,600 acres of land, the greater part of which was privately owned, was under forest in Grenada at the end of 1950. The forests are mainly in the high central parts of the island, most of which are simply left under natural vegetation and are not exploited to any important extent. It is important to preserve these areas in order to conserve the soil and maintain the water supplies of the island. About 4,400 acres are Crown Lands and have been declared forest reserves, and attempts are being made to regulate the felling of trees in these reserves and to establish stands of teak and blue mountain mahoe. The Government plans to expand the area of forest reserves by a further 4,600 acres in the ten year period commencing 1951.

The areas under forest at the end of 1950 were as follows :—

Rain forest :

Government	4,394 acres
Private	7,852 ,,
Dry woodland and secondary forest :	
Private	16,386 ,,
	28,632 acres

The value of Government-owned forest products has averaged $720 per annum over the past five years. No details are available of the value of products from privately-owned forests.

Fisheries

Fishing is carried on mainly along the leeward or western coast of the island. Methods are primitive, the beach seine and the hand line being principally used. Fishpots are also used close inshore. Few facilities exist for the storage and preservation of large catches, and though there is a strong demand for fish throughout the island, supplies

Digitized by Google

are inadequate. Better storage, transport and marketing facilities, and improvements in the methods used by the fishermen, are needed. A sum of $55,000 has been allocated to fisheries development in the Development Plan.

Minerals

The Colony has no known mineral deposits.

Manufactures

There are no major industrial establishments in Grenada. As already stated, there is a small modern sugar factory in the southern part of the island capable of producing 3,000 tons of unrefined sugar per season, but lack of adequate supplies of sugar cane have restricted its output to about 800–1,500 tons per annum, while the Colony's consumption is about 2,500 tons. A protective duty of 1d. per pound is imposed on imported sugar, and as well a subsidy of roughly ½d. per pound has been paid by the Government during the last few years to enable the sugar produced by the factory to reach the consumer at 4d. per pound.

There are five old fashioned pot-stills producing about 20,000 gallons of low-grade rum, and a modern continuous still, which has recently been erected by the sugar factory, is capable of producing some 40,000 gallons of rum per annum from its waste molasses. The Colony's consumption of that grade of rum—about 45,000 gallons annually—should therefore be able to be met from local resources.

There are two small soap factories which utilise locally grown copra and which largely meet the Colony's needs of laundry soap. One of these factories also produces a limited quantity of edible oil and stock-feed. A small but modern cigarette factory has been in operation for several years, utilising imported American dry leaf tobacco. Small quantities of lime oil and of nutmeg oil are distilled for export, and a small broom factory, utilising imported corn straw and other materials, has recently been established.

Village Industries

Baskets, brooms and hats are made by peasants for sale locally, and in one village where the requisite "pine" grows in wild profusion, the residents make "plait" from the dried leaves for sale to a company which converts it into modern hats, bags, slippers, etc. The finished articles find a ready sale amongst tourists as well as locally, and there is a small export market.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

Grenada's tourist trade is still in its infancy and efforts are being made to expand it and to attract many visitors to the island, which has natural attractions which are invaluable assets; its bathing beaches and scenic beauty are always the subject of favourable comment by visitors. The Grand Etang lake, 1,800 feet above sea level and approached by a motorable road, is visited by almost every tourist.

The recent construction of a luxury hotel capable of accommodating 60 guests, as well as the renovation of existing hotels, make available accommodation for 100 altogether. There are also one or two guest houses. The number of furnished bungalows close to the beach available for rental is far from adequate but is steadily increasing. There are two beach clubs on the Grand Anse beach. The number of tourists visiting the island is about 450 annually. The reclamation of an area of over 30 acres of swampy land near the Grand Anse beach has opened up great possibilities for the future development of bathing and seaside holiday facilities.

St. George's Harbour is an ideal yachting centre for the exploration of the Grenadines, and offers excellent protection during the hurricane season (July to October). The establishment of a Yacht Club is contemplated.

Expenditure by the Tourist Trade Development Board on advertising at home and abroad, preparation and distribution of pamphlets, office expenses, etc., was over £1,000 in 1948 and over £2,000 in 1949. The Board obtains its revenue from a Government subvention.

Distributive Trade

Long-established business houses handle the major portion of the wholesale provision business, while a large number of smaller concerns undertake the retail trade. The lumber trade is centred in the capital, where five companies, which also deal in hardware and building material, are the sole importers. There is no organised marketing of produce for local sale.

Professions

At the beginning of 1951 the number of people engaged in the various professions was as follows :—

Medical Officers :		
Government	12	
Private	1	
	—	13
Dentists (in private practice) ..		3
Health visitors		5
Nurses		78
Barristers		7
Solicitors		4
School Teachers :		
Primary		565*
Secondary		49

* Including 278 pupil-teachers.

Co-operative Movement

The co-operative movement in the Colony was begun by the Grenada Associated Peasant and Industrial Clubs (commonly known as the GAPIC movement), the object of which is to foster thrift and improved methods of agriculture among the peasant population. Branches have been set up in every parish and in many of the small villages, and a co-operative shop has been established.

The most important co-operative organisation, however, is the Grenada Co-operative Nutmeg Association, established by statute in May, 1946. The Association is a body corporate with the objects of safeguarding and promoting the interests of the nutmeg industry, especially in regard to the marketing of nutmegs and mace and the regulation and control of their export The Association, which is the sole exporter of these products, began operations on 1st October, 1947, with a capital of £196,685, obtained by a cess, collected by the Government at the request of producers, commencing in April, 1942.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

The supply of local labour, both skilled and unskilled, is sufficient to meet the demand. As the Colony is not industrialised, the scope for skilled labour is very restricted.

Digitized by Google

The following table shows average rates of wages and hours of work in 1950 for the principal categories of wage-earners :—

AVERAGE WAGE-RATES IN PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES

Type of labour	*Average daily wage rates* Men	Women	*No. of hours per week*
Agricultural labour (except sugar industry)	91 c. (wage agreement)	76 c.	35–40
Agricultural labour (sugar industry)	$1·02	85 c.	35–40
Labourers employed in preparation of export products	91 c.	76 c.	39
Public Works Dept. labourers	91 c.	76 c.	40
Public Works Dept. artisans	78 c. to $2·88	—	44
Shop Assistants	$20 per month (Minimum wages)	$15 per month	44
Stevedores	44 c. per hour	—	—

In the agricultural industry a 10-day fortnight is usually worked, and in other industries workers are required to work an 11-day fortnight.

The following table shows the average number of workers in the various industries in 1948 :—

Agricultural labourers		5,005
Shop assistants		735
Porters, messengers, etc.		192
Waterfront workers	123	
Public Works road labourers ..	1,150	
Public Works artisans, etc. ..	652	
	——	1,802
		——
		7,857

There are three Trade Unions—the General Workers' Union and the Grenada Workers' Union with a membership of 593 and 2,600 respectively, and the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers' Union, with a membership of 2,070, in 1950.

Migrant Labour

The average number emigrating annually in recent years has been about 380. There is no appreciable immigration.

The recruitment of labour for places abroad is regulated by legislation which provides for the drawing up of written contracts between the employer and the worker, the terms and conditions of which are subject to the approval of the Labour Officer. The law requires the employer to furnish the recruited worker with the cost of passages, suitable living accommodation, and medical attention, and provides for the fulfilment of a number of other provisions aimed at obtaining suitable conditions of service. No worker is allowed to be recruited for more than two years, and persons under the age of 18 years cannot be recruited save with the permission of the Governor. In no case can a person under 14 years be recruited.

Recruited workers usually make remittances to their families through the banks and the Post Office.

Fuel and Power

The Colony possesses no fuel or power resources. A recent survey has shown that the rivers and lakes of the island do not provide a sufficiently constant flow to justify the establishment of hydro-electric undertakings. Electric light and power is available only in the town of St. George's and its environs. The power station is owned and operated by the Government and has a total output from three diesel units of 650 kilowatts, which is sufficient to meet probable needs for the immediate future. The average daily output is at present 2,550 units, and extensions of mains are being provided as and where the demand arises. The cost of power for industrial purposes varies from three cents to eight cents per unit, according to consumption. Power is supplied at 400 volts 50 cycles, and light at 230 volts.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

The revenue and expenditure of the Central Government during the period 1938–51 are shown in the following table :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

	Revenue	*Expenditure*	*Surplus*	*Deficit*
	£	£	£	£
1938	169,800	171,957		2,157
1939	158,307	173,686		15,379
1940	182,079	200,840		18,761
1941	185,594	178,933	6,661	
1942	263,850	225,738	38,112	
1943	287,454	235,946	51,508	
1944	347,010	279,532	67,478	
1945	381,336	427,676		46,340
1946	579,522	520,264	59,258	
1947	578,182	523,679	54,503	
1948	572,848	685,834		112,986
1949	551,637	659,020		107,383
	($2,647,857)	($3,163,295)		($515,438)
1950	786,513	620,705	165,808	
	($3,775,261)	($2,979,382)	($795,879)	
1951 (revised estimates)	775,845 ($3,724,055)	815,640 ($3,915,074)	39,795 ($191,019)	

Since 1949 the West Indian dollar ($4·80=£1) has been the unit of account.

Both revenue and expenditure have shown large increases in the post-war years as a result of higher prices and costs, though there have been no new sources of taxation or material increases in the rates of existing taxation during this period. In the tables below revenue and expenditure are analysed by heads for the period 1948–51 :—

ANALYSIS OF REVENUE 1948–51

Head	1948	1949	1950	1951 *(revised estimates)*
	$	$	$	$
Customs and Excise	1,457,704	1,481,153	2,169,446	2,174,300
Licences	39,549	101,930	192,300	107,550
Taxes	507,568	436,003	438,815	540,000
Harbour dues, etc.	39,252	41,024	45,134	45,500
Fees of Court, etc.	147,395	135,376	161,734	139,800
Water Supplies ..	36,103	41,017	44,003	44,345
Post Office ..	99,798	126,217	100,407	216,000
Electricity, Telephones, etc. ..	87,067	100,695	110,692	124,000
Rent and Interest	103,266	35,228	24,350	24,250
Sales of Government property ..	10,752	60,924	65,464	13,600
Repayment of loans and advances ..	2,818	8,477	3,893	19,400
Land Sales ..	36	1,214	312	355
	2,531,308	2,572,258	3,266,919	3,449,100
C.D. and W. funds	218,364	75,599	508,342	274,955
Total Revenue	2,749,672	2,647,857	3,775,261	3,724,055

Digitized by Google

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE, 1948–51

Head	1948	1949	1950	1951 (revised estimates)
	$	$	$	$
Governor ..	21,359	19,404	21,949	17,855
Legislature ..	12,217	11,992	17,557	31,623
Administration ..	43,232	58,472	64,469	79,907
Agriculture ..	92,339	124,264	107,079	134,913
Audit	11,691	15,896	14,322	17,711
Housing and Planning	55,205	16,016	68,594	7,599
Central Road Authority ..	366,071	232,099	285,663	357,085
Central Water Authority ..	41,428	47,208	48,886	64,902
Relief	40,629	47,220	47,378	54,314
Education ..	237,410	288,929	358,360	445,344
Electricity, etc. ..	185,762	120,710	78,816	98,562
Judicial	36,734	43,583	57,680	61,463
Labour	5,949	6,140	6,849	12,054
Legal	6,712	7,834	8,367	12,588
Medical	278,091	363,809	370,486	468,048
Pensions	68,671	86,433	81,537	118,444
Police	103,081	179,163	154,898	312,592
Port and Marine..	13,089	32,229	14,696	24,197
Post Office and Telephones ..	96,204	124,854	140,229	157,522
Prisons	19,528	19,131	29,281	41,912
Public Debt ..	98,515	106,524	109,480	109,667
Public Library ..	4,371	5,099	5,974	7,386
Public Works ..	719,092	636,528	382,355	542,399
Supply Control ..	12,818	13,977	13,312	13,524
Treasury and Customs	83,447	116,413	105,327	124,518
Loans and Subventions ..	52,690	37,106	46,684	54,090
Miscellaneous ..	332,097	174,892	173,728	269,900
Colonial Development and Welfare	253,570	227,370	165,427	274,955
	3,292,002	3,163,295	2,979,383	3,915,074

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1950 amounted to $1,390,129, against which there were accumulated Sinking Funds amounting to $572,790. A loan was floated during 1952 to meet the cost of projected works of improvement and works already undertaken from current revenue in anticipation of such a loan.

The major sources of revenue are import duties, export duties, licences, excise duties, estate duty, income tax and land and house tax. Since 1939 there has been a surtax on all customs and excise duties and on income tax. Rates of import duty range from 5 per cent. to 22½ per cent. *ad valorem*. Basic export duties are low (6d. per cwt. on the major products, cocoa and nutmegs) but the "additional" duty imposed since the war and the advent of abnormally high prices is calculated at 20 per cent. of the net price obtained by the seller above certain basic prices (see above, page 237).

An analysis of receipts from these taxes in 1949 and 1951 is given in the following table :—

The main sources of revenue of District Boards are town rates, water rates, market dues, cemetery fees, and Government grants. Their expenditure is restricted to the maintenance of streets and drains within the town boundaries, the scavenging of towns, lighting of streets, maintenance of markets, lairs, abattoirs, cemeteries, public conveniences, etc.

Currency and Banking

The currency of the Colony is the West Indian dollar which is linked to sterling at the rate of $4·80 to the £. Prior to 1951 the Trinidad currency notes, together with a limited issue by banks operating in the colony, and United Kingdom coins, were in circulation, but Grenada is now participating in the new arrangements for a uniform currency for the British territories in the Eastern Caribbean (see Appendix, page 273).

Loan and credit facilities are available from the two banks—Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.) and the Royal Bank of Canada—as well as from the Grenada Co-operative Bank, Ltd., and the Building and Loan Association ; there is no Land or Agricultural Bank. The three banks have savings departments and there is a Government Savings Bank, which is a sub-department of the Treasury. Deposits in the Savings Bank at the end of 1950 amounted to $1,218,605. (There is no Post Office Savings Bank.) Thrift is also encouraged by the Grenada Associated Peasant and Industrial Clubs, and savings by their members are estimated at about £2,000.

Private Investment

Companies operating in the Colony may be classified as follows :—

Local—11 Private with £1,428,154 share capital.
2 Public with £160,540 share capital.
1 Non-profit making.
Externally controlled—19 Insurance Companies, and 7 other Companies.

There is one Building Society in the Colony, incorporated in 1935.

There is no information available indicating the amount of external commercial capital invested in the Colony.

National Income

The latest figures available are in respect of the year 1942. The estimated national income of the Colony was then in the neighbourhood of £2,078,000, equivalent to £24 per head. In consequence of the general rise in prices its monetary value must now be considerably greater.

PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF REVENUE, 1949 AND 1951

Item	1949			1951 (approved estimates)		
	$	$	% *of Total Revenue*	$	$	% *of Total Revenue*
Import duties :						
ad valorem	309,403			330,000		
specific	444,769			455,000		
trade duty on liquor ..	11,219			7,500		
warehouse rent	6,794			6,500		
surtax	92,503			95,500		
		864,688	33·62		894,500	31·41
Export duties :						
export duties	16,076			14,000		
additional duty	467,896			700,000		
banana cess	307			500		
		484,279	18·75		714,500	25·09
Excise duties :						
rum	101,389			148,420		
surtax	33,797			44,526		
		135,186	5·25		192,946	6·79
Taxes :						
Income tax	391,771			425,000		
Land and House tax ..	31,198			33,000		
Estate duties	13,034			20,000		
		436,003	16·95		478,000	16·78
Other ordinary revenue ..		652,102	25·43		567,667	19·93
Total Ordinary Revenue..		2,572,258	100·00		2,847,613	100·00

Digitized by Google

Cost of Living

The following table shows the Cost of Living Index figures at the end of each quarter as compared with the base period (August, 1939) :—

COST OF LIVING INDEX
(August 1939 = 100)

	March	*June*	*September*	*December*
1942				173
1943	175	171	173	169
1944	167	177	178	179
1945	181	183	179	181
1946	182	182	184	190
1947	195	199	208	206
1948	210	213	208	206
1949	206	205	204	220
1950	220	220	218	216
1951	217	235	258	263

Balance of Trade and Payments

During the period from 1938 to 1946 inclusive the balance of trade was favourable, except in 1940 ; after 1946, however, it was adverse until 1950, when a very favourable crop year for nearly all products led to a large increase in exports. The following table shows the values of imports and exports annually since 1938 :—

BALANCE OF TRADE, 1938–50

Year	*Domestic Exports*	*Retained Imports*	*Balance of trade + favourable − adverse*
	£	£	£
1938	271,727	252,221	+ 19,506
1939	263,000	235,401	+ 27,599
1940	258,914	314,163	− 55,249
1941	341,531	303,166	+ 38,365
1942	514,249	324,373	+ 189,876
1943	563,796	391,275	+ 172,521
1944	593,778	562,281	+ 31,497
1945	587,590	515,371	+ 72,119
1946	783,722	724,236	+ 59,486
1947	976,755	1,239,417	− 262,662
1948	881,700	1,215,508	− 333,808
1949	878,925	1,088,732	− 209,797
1950	1,406,920	1,115,982	+ 290,938

The principal sources of total imports and destinations of domestic exports in 1949 are shown in the following tables :—

TOTAL IMPORTS—PRINCIPAL SOURCES, 1949

Country of Origin	*Imports* $	*% of Total*
British Commonwealth		
United Kingdom	1,771,836	33·97
British West Indies	824,424	15·81
Australia	132,607	2·54
South Africa	11,474	0·22
India	102,762	1·97
Hong Kong	25,865	0·50
Canada	1,245,488	23·88
Newfoundland	141,863	2·72
Other Commonwealth countries	11,746	0·22
Total British Commonwealth ..	4,268,066	81·83
Foreign Countries		
U.S.A.	786,723	15·08
Puerto Rico	34,284	0·66
Holland	45,484	0·87
France	20,206	0·39
Belgium	8,386	0·16
Italy	7,690	0·15
Other foreign countries ..	44,738	0·86
Total Foreign Countries ..	947,611	18·17
Grand Total	5,215,677	100·00

DOMESTIC EXPORTS—PRINCIPAL DESTINATIONS, 1949

Country of destination	*Value* $	*% of Total*
British Commonwealth		
United Kingdom	1,589,687	37·68
British West Indies	106,297	2·52
Australia	44,757	1·06
Canada	101,903	2·42
Total British Commonwealth ..	1,842,644	43·68
Foreign Countries		
U.S.A.	2,005,786	47·54
Holland	186,803	4·43
Germany	49,612	1·18
Belgium	43,488	1·03
Italy	24,176	0·57
Switzerland	13,720	0·32
Other foreign countries ..	52,660	1·25
Total Foreign Countries ..	2,376,245	56·32
Grand Total	4,218,889	100·00

In the table on page 244 the principal imports and exports during the years 1938, 1948 and 1949 are analysed by volume and value and their main sources and destinations shown.

There is insufficient information regarding invisible items to make possible the calculation of the balance of payments with any degree of accuracy.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

The Colony's Ten Year Development Plan for the period 1946–56, as approved in 1948, made provision for the expenditure of $8,349,888, of which $1,833,071 was to be found from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, $3,882,061 from Colony funds, and the balance—$2,634,756—from loans. By the end of 1949 total expenditure on schemes within the Development Plan was as follows :—

	$
From C.D. and W. funds	553,271
From local resources	472,829
From advances pending loans ..	1,006,626
Total ..	2,032,726

It was then becoming clear that it would not be possible for the Colony to finance the Ten Year Plan as originally conceived. Not only had heavy expenditure in anticipation of loans reduced reserves to a dangerously low level, but, in conjunction with increases in recurrent expenditure, particularly on salaries and wages, it had led to large budget deficits in 1948 and 1949. In these circumstances a revision of the Development Plan was undertaken.

In order to effect a reduction in the overall cost of development it was necessary to curtail expenditure on those schemes within the original Development Plan which contributed least to the economic development of the Colony. Planned expenditure on social welfare, communications, village amenities, and certain other schemes was accordingly reduced, and the savings thus achieved were used for schemes vital to the economic and general progress of the Colony.

In the Revised Plan expenditure was reduced to $4,535,484 which, together with $2,032,726 already spent, gave a total of $6,568,210 as compared with the $8,349,888 proposed in the original Plan. The Revised Plan is to be financed as to $1,535,650 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, $1,500,000 from loans and $1,499,834 from local resources.

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE FOR 1938, 1948 AND 1949, SHOWING MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Item	Unit	1938			1948			1949		
		Volume	Value $	Principal sources $000	Volume	Value $	Principal sources $000	Volume	Value $	Principal sources $000
Fish, all kinds	tons	523	60,691	Newfoundland (41), Canada (18)	583	264,313	Canada (203), Newfoundland (60)	449	229,678	Newfoundland (142), Canada (86).
Rice	,,	1,314	63,182	British Guiana (58), India (5)	701	75,952	British Guiana (all)	848	109,994	British Guiana (all).
Flour, wheaten	,,	3,300	188,794	Canada (121), U.K. (47)	3,544	725,617	Canada (all)	3,170	545,335	Canada (all).
Meat, all kinds	,,	88	23,726	Argentine (12), U.S.A.(7), U.K. (5)	121	100,968	Canada (59), Australia (37)	91	87,038	Canada (46), Australia (36).
Sugar : unrefined	,,	92	4,608	Barbados (4)	1,508	230,106	Barbados (228)	781	122,810	Barbados (120).
refined	,,	292	15,091	U.K. (13), Canada (2)	35	7,690	U.K. (4), Canada (3)	110	22,569	U.K. (15), Barbados (7).
Lumber	sup. ft.	915,343	84,874	British Guiana (37), U.S.A. (29), Canada (17)	2,212,134	412,078	U.S.A. (219), Canada (171), Puerto Rico (19)	1,498,669	285,694	Canada (118), U.S.A. (96), Puerto Rico (34).
Boots and Shoes	doz. prs.	4,555	36,461	U.K. (18), Czechoslovakia (9)	5,072	136,323	U.K. (65), Canada (50), India (11)	5,245	103,171	U.K. (48), Canada (29), India (11).
Motor Cars	no.	44	28,670	U.K. (13), Canada (7)	94	138,840	U.K. (131), Canada (5)	100	149,004	U.K. (145).
Cement	tons	1,352	25,037	U.K. (25)	3,379	127,663	U.K. (120), Puerto Rico (7)	3,218	152,305	U.K. (151).
Cotton Piece Goods	yards	1,103,123	95,525	U.K. (60), U.S.A. (33)	960,469	431,198	U.S.A. (292), U.K. (70), Canada (64)	905,918	369,992	U.S.A. (230), U.K. (125), Canada (11).
Medicines and Drugs	—	—	18,571	U.K. (10), U.S.A. (4), Canada (3)	—	70,537	U.K. (27), Canada (19), U.S.A. (15)	—	79,819	U.K. (48), U.S.A. (14), Canada (14).
Iron and Steel Manufactures	—	—	27,941	U.K. (25), Canada (2)	—	310,683	U.K. (148), U.S.A. (68), Canada (58)	—	310,052	U.K. (248), U.S.A. (30), Canada (23).
Motor Spirit	gallons	181,758	24,432	Trinidad (all)	297,949	67,682	Trinidad (all)	424,233	102,476	Trinidad (all).
Artificial Silk Piece Goods	yards	109,023	16,157	U.K. (7), France (4), Japan (3)	75,322	65,847	U.K. (30), U.S.A. (22), Canada (14)	156,780	93,200	U.S.A. (37), U.K. 30, Canada (13).
Woollen Piece Goods	,,	16,143	8,640	U.K. (5), Japan (3)	19,946	43,821	U.K. (40)	20,863	54,679	U.K. (53).
Tobacco and Snuff : unmanufactured	lb.	46,142	6,542	U.S.A. (4), Canada (3)	93,896	61,001	Canada (34), U.S.A. (25)	90,933	65,411	Canada (35), U.S.A. (30).
manufactured	,,	20,359	25,896	U.K. (all)	3,542	9,623	U.K. (9)	3,710	10,875	U.K. (all).
Bags and sacks (empty)	doz.	5,742	11,054	India (11)	3,373	25,732	India (25)	11,737	84,067	India (83).
Electrical apparatus	—	—	10,565	U.K. (7), U.S.A. (3)	—	168,266	U.K. (126), U.S.A. (28), Canada (13)	—	112,451	U.K. (70), U.S.A. (33), Canada (8).

PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS BY VOLUME AND VALUE FOR 1938, 1948 AND 1949, SHOWING MAIN DESTINATIONS

Item	Unit	Volume	Value $	Principal Destinations $000	Volume	Value $	Principal Destinations $000	Volume	Value $	Principal Destinations $000
Raw Cocoa	cwt.	85,376	609,216	U.K. (314), Canada (205), Belgium (37)	52,500	2,529,770	U.K. (11,035), U.S.A. (977), Belgium (226), Egypt (84), Canada (71)	48,482	1,748,866	U.K. (756), U.S.A. (686), Holland (169).
Nutmegs	,,	36,269	358,200	U.S.A. (213), U.K. (97), Canada (24)	18,004	998,894	U.S.A. (745), U.K. (117), Canada (103)	44,817	1,666,014	U.S.A. (1,075), U.K. (440), Canada (77).
Mace	,,	5,078	187,176	U.K. (128), U.S.A. (31), Canada (14)	4,039	495,606	U.K. (370), Canada (66), U.S.A. (59)	6,303	591,805	U.K. (310), U.S.A. (210), Germany (23).
Bananas	stem	106,426	53,443	Canada (all)	15,595	23,876	U.S.A. (23)	18,262	23,726	U.S.A. (16).
Raw Cotton	cwt.	2,055	12,422	U.K. (all)	453	7,633	U.K. (7)	1,340	64,513	U.K. (53), Barbados (11).
Lime oil	lb.	12,978	46,728	U.K. (40), Holland (4)	10,628	48,364	U.K. (35), U.S.A. (13)	5,360	28,637	U.S.A. (16), U.K. (12).
Nutmeg oil	,,	—	—	—	2,430	13,161	U.K. (11), Australia (2)	3,690	16,314	U.K. (all).

Digitized by Google

In the following table expenditure proposed in the original Ten Year Development Plan is compared with actual expenditure to the end of 1949 plus expenditure proposed in the Revised Plan.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND REVISED DEVELOPMENT PLANS

	A *Original Plan*		*B* *Expenditure to 31st December, 1949*	*C* *Revised Plan*	*D* *Total B and C*	
	$	%	$	$	$	%
Agriculture and Fisheries ..	1,971,580	23·61	414,825	1,227,494	1,642,319	25·0
Education	1,168,320	13·99	292,594	574,812	867,406	13·21
Medical and Health	976,280	11·69	271,816	521,317	793,133	12·07
Social Welfare	320,160	3·83	16,040	67,428	83,468	1·27
Communications	1,289,736	15·09	159,077	306,705	465,782	7·09
Housing and Slum Clearance ..	720,000	8·62	50,450	442,504	492,954	7·50
Water Supplies	395,328	4·73	293,609	275,136	568,745	8·66
Drainage	484,500	5·80	359,027	23,595	382,622	5·83
Electricity	273,600	3·28	175,288	211,400	386,688	5·89
Printing	24,000	0·29	—	—	—	—
Village Amenities	163,200	1·96	—	24,000	24,000	0·37
Police Headquarters	48,000	0·58	—	130,000	130,000	1·98
Research	—	—	—	25,000	25,000	0·38
Miscellaneous	25,000	0·30	—	—	—	—
Reserves	40,184	0·48	—	437,657	437,657	6·66
Loan Charges	480,000	5·75	—	268,436	268,436	4·09
Total	8,349,888	100·00	2,032,726	4,535,484	6,568,210	100·00

Digitized by Google

ST. LUCIA

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

St. Lucia lies between longitude 60° 53′ and 61° 05′ West and latitude 13° 43′ and 14° 07′ North, and is approximately halfway between St. Vincent to the south and the French island of Martinique to the north. Its greatest length from north to south is 27 miles, and its greatest breadth 14 miles; its area is 233 square miles. The island is mountainous, with a range running from north to south, its highest peak rising to 3,145 feet. The mountains are of volcanic origin, and near the town of Soufrière there is an ancient crater containing dark-coloured, hot, bubbling sulphur springs. There are numerous short rivers running off the mountains to the sea. The mountainous interior is largely under forest, and except in the south where the hills fall more gently, cultivation is confined to the valleys and their slopes.

The climate is wet; rainfall varies from about 65 inches a year in the south to 90 inches at Castries in the north-west and 150 inches in the mountains. The first four months of the year tend to be the driest. The island is in the latitude of the North-East trades, and most of the winds come from this direction. Temperature rarely exceeds 90° F. or falls below 70° F.

The soils of the island are: (1) heavy alluvial loams, found in the northern valleys, which are the principal soils of the cultivated areas; they are of considerable depth and natural fertility, and produce excellent crop yields even after continuous cropping for long periods. (2) In the south there are clay loams, with a subsoil of red clay containing numerous quartz crystals; these drain fairly freely, but as leaching has been considerable they are mostly deficient in potash and humus. (3) In the Soufrière valley there are sandy detrital soils with fairly numerous boulders; they have been subjected to heavy leaching, and to maintain fertility heavy dressings of organic manure are required. (4) In the central uplands there are red clay soils, which are very acid, with high organic matter which diminishes with erosion, low phosphate and high potash contents.

Population

At the date of the last census, held in April, 1946, the population of St. Lucia was 70,113 (33,311 males and 36,802 females). At the end of 1950 the population is estimated to have been 79,511. At the previous census, in April, 1921, the population was 51,505, so that there was an increase of approximately 36 per cent., representing an annual rate of increase of 1·23 per cent. between the two dates. The annual rate of increase from 1946–50 was approximately 1·15 per cent.

At the time of the 1946 census the population of the capital, Castries, was 7,146, and of its suburbs 9,433; the other towns in the island, Soufrière and Vieux-Fort, had populations of 3,088 and 2,618 respectively. The remainder of the population, amounting to 47,828, may be regarded as rural.

The distribution of the population in 1946 by racial groups was as follows:—

POPULATION—RACIAL GROUPS

African descent	40,616
Mixed or coloured	26,326
East Indian	2,635
European	343
Asiatic (other than East Indian)	16
Carib	13
Not stated	164

The following table shows the population in various age-groups, at the time of the 1946 census:

POPULATION—AGE GROUPS

Years of Age	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
0– 4	5,251	5,105	10,356
5–14	8,933	8,734	17,667
15–44	14,417	15,982	30,399
45–64	3,463	4,921	8,384
65 and over	1,111	2,027	3,138
Not stated	136	33	169
Total	33,311	36,802	70,113

Birth, death, and infant mortality rates have been as follows in recent years:

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Births per 1,000 population	*Deaths per 1,000 population*	*Infant mortality per 1,000 live births*
1947	38·4	16·3	116·5
1948	35·5	16·8	130·3
1949	35·5	16·4	120·4
1950	35·5	14·9	115·2

Migration

It is estimated that 6,265 persons emigrated in the period between the censuses of 1921 and 1946. As in other West Indian islands, a fair amount of unrecorded movement of population takes place, and it is difficult to give estimates of migration except for intercensal periods.

Occupations

The census of 1946 gives the following particulars regarding the number of gainfully-occupied persons in various industry groups:

POPULATION—INDUSTRY GROUPS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*	%
Agriculture	9,724	6,280	16,004	50·2
Sugar planting	2,691	2,022	4,713	14·8
Mixed farming	6,441	3,968	10,409	32·6
Other agriculture	592	290	882	2·8
Quarrying and mining	36	32	68	0·2
Fishing and hunting	1,023	20	1,043	3·3
Forestry	208	13	221	0·7
Manufacturing	2,060	2,689	4,749	14·9
Sugar milling	417	48	465	1·4
Other food, drink, ice	151	256	407	1·3
Sawmilling	117	—	117	0·4
Textiles, apparel	588	2,219	2,807	8·8
Metals, machinery, vehicles	403	1	404	1·3
All other manufacture	384	165	549	1·7
Construction	2,320	764	3,084	9·7
Transport and communication	535	23	558	1·7
Trade and finance	441	862	1,303	4·1
Services	1,381	2,785	4,166	13·0
Professional and recreational	219	423	642	2·0
Public	982	217	1,199	3·7
Personal (excluding domestic)	56	674	730	2·3
Domestic	124	1,471	1,595	5·0
Others	253	121	442	2·2
Total	18,170	13,721	31,891	100·0

Digitized by Google

Social Amenities

Education

In 1950 there were 47 primary and two secondary schools. Of the primary schools, 40 were Roman Catholic, three Anglican, three Methodist, and one was run by the Government. The two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, were Roman Catholic. All these schools (except the one run by the Government) were grant-aided. In 1950 there were 13,516 primary school pupils enrolled, and an average attendance of 8,391 ; in the secondary schools there were 217 boys and 224 girls enrolled. There were 408 primary school teachers, of whom 137 were trained, 25 were being trained, 66 were uncertificated, and 180 were pupil teachers. There were 19 secondary school teachers of whom seven were graduates. As well, about 2,000 children were enrolled in private schools, all of which gave primary education except one, which provided secondary education for about 50 pupils.

There are no facilities for higher education, but a number of scholarships are provided for University study abroad. In 1950 there were 17 students who were receiving these scholarships, and about 30 studying at their own expense. The Extramural Department of the University College of the West Indies runs a number of adult classes, in various subjects, which were attended by about 250 persons in 1949. There is no organised system of vocational training or apprenticeship.

The proportion of the population which is literate increased from 34·5 per cent. at the census of 1921 to 47·9 per cent. at the census of 1946. French patois, which is a colloquial language without a literature, is widely spoken, and in 1921 60 per cent. and in 1946 43 per cent. of the population were recorded as not being able to speak English. English is, however, used as the medium of instruction in the schools as far as possible.

Health

The principal ailments are malaria, helminthic diseases, and venereal diseases ; yaws and tuberculosis are also fairly prevalent. There are a few cases of leprosy, and there is a small leper home.

In 1950 there were four hospitals—the Victoria (100 beds) Vieux Fort (22 beds), Soufrière (20 beds), and Dennery (12 beds). There are also 12 dispensaries, which provide treatment for outpatients, and during the years 1949 and 1950 five health centres, including one at Castries, were built with Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The Castries centre has V.D., dental, ante-natal, and infant welfare clinics, and a day nursery.

With funds made available by Colonial Development and Welfare grants a number of drainage works have been carried out in recent years by the Public Health Engineering Unit, to eliminate the breeding grounds of malarial mosquitoes. The unit has also carried out sanitation improvement schemes, and has undertaken anti-malarial spraying with D.D.T. in several areas.

Housing

The standard of housing is low. Timber is the principal building material ; in the towns imported lumber is almost universally used, with galvanised iron for roofing. In the country rough boards or wattling are used for peasant houses, and they are often roughly thatched with cane trash.

According to the 1946 census, of the 15,205 dwellings in the colony, 1,513, or 10·2 per cent., had one room, 9,301, or 62·9 per cent., had two rooms, and 1,290, or 8·7 per cent., three rooms. The average number of persons per room was 1·84 throughout the colony, 1·64 in Castries, and 1·99 in the rural areas. Of the total population of the colony 10·6 per cent. were living at a density of more than five persons to a room, 15·8 per cent. more than four persons to a room, 31·9 per cent. more than three persons to a room and 56·4 per cent. more than two persons to a room.

Legislation was passed in 1945 setting up a Central Housing Authority, which has powers for town and country planning. The central area of Castries, the capital, covering 24 acres out of the total municipal area of 102 acres, was destroyed by fire in June, 1948, and a plan for its reconstruction has been prepared and is being carried out. The plan provides for street improvements, zoning, a new water supply and drainage system and a Government housing scheme containing 250 dwellings. The United Kingdom Government has agreed to provide assistance up to £1,025,000 to meet the major part of the cost of reconstruction, the balance being met by a St. Lucia Government loan. It was hoped that the reconstruction programme would be completed by June, 1952, though private building will continue over a longer period.

At Vide Bouteille, on the outskirts of Castries, an area of approximately 35 acres is being developed as a housing estate to relieve slum conditions in the capital. Twenty houses have been built with a grant and loan from C.D. and W. funds ; on the remainder of the area house lots are being made available, with roads and sanitation. In the village of Canaries, under a C.D. and W. scheme, 25 housing plots have been provided on an area of one acre and it is proposed to add a further half acre. Assistance is given to persons to move their houses to these plots. In 1951 the Government purchased an area on the Vigie Peninsula with the object of developing it for housing.

Social Security

There is no regular system of old age pensions or social insurance. In 1949 a Central Assistance Committee was established, in place of the former Poor Relief Committee ; there are local care committees which examine all applications for public assistance in their respective districts. In 1949 a total of 1,278 persons were granted relief, to an amount of $14,324, and in 1950 1,222 persons received $16,778.

There are a number of friendly societies, and a Government Savings Bank.

Political Structure

Central Government

St. Lucia is governed by an Administrator, who is responsible to the Governor of the Windward Islands, aided by an Executive Council, which is presided over by the Governor when he is present in the Colony, and in his absence by the Administrator. The Executive Council consists of the Administrator (if the Governor is present), two *ex-officio* members, one other official appointed by the Governor, one nominated member appointed by the Governor from among the nominated members of the Legislative Council, and three elected members who are elected by the Legislative Council from among its elected members.

The Legislative Council consists of the Administrator (who, when present, is the presiding member), and two other *ex-officio* members, three nominated, and eight elected members. The presiding member has a casting vote only. In 1951 the franchise was extended to all British subjects over 21 years of age who have resided in the colony for more than 12 months, and elections under the new franchise were held towards the end of the year. The Governor has reserve powers for ensuring the passage of legislation which he considers expedient in the interests of public faith or good government.

The principal Departments are : Administration, Audit, Education, Lands and Surveys, Legal, Medical, Police, Agricultural, Port and Marine, Post Office, Public Works, and Treasury and Customs ; the last six are those particularly concerned with economic affairs.

Local Government

The Castries Town Board is wholly elected, and performs the usual municipal functions ; it is also responsible for the supply of electricity and water in Castries and its surroundings. It has complete authority for raising and

Digitized by Google

spending funds within the municipal limits. Elections are held annually, one-third of nine members retiring each year in rotation. Outside Castries there are two town councils—Soufrière and Vieux-Fort—and also a number of village and district councils. Since 1948 these councils have had an elected element which constitutes a majority in the case of the town councils; other members are nominated by the Governor. Local funds are obtained from house and land taxes, and water rates.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The Commercial Code, prepared in 1916, regulates trading, partnerships, the formation, administration and winding-up of companies, sale of goods, bills of exchange, insurance, bankruptcy, patents, designs, and trade marks. Generally speaking, commercial law is based on that of England, but does not incorporate its more recent developments.

In 1946 a Tourist Trade Development Board was set up. Under the Hotels Aid Ordinance of 1948 the Governor may grant licences for the import of building materials or hotel equipment, for the construction or extension of hotels, free of duty in the case of imports of Commonwealth origin, and at a rate of duty equivalent to the difference between the general and preferential tariff rates in the case of imports of foreign origin. Under the Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance of 1951, the Governor may declare an industry to be a pioneer industry, and thus able to import building materials, tools, plant, machinery, etc., for construction, extension and equipment of plant free of duty for a period of five years; while for any five years in a period of eight years one-fifth of capital expenditure may be set off annually for income tax purposes.

Trade Tariffs

Tariffs—either specific or *ad valorem*—are levied on nearly all imported goods, the general rates being as a rule 50 per cent. above the preferential rates on goods of Commonwealth origin. There are moderate specific duties on live animals, firearms, beer, biscuits, bricks and tiles, butter and substitutes, candles, cement, cheese, fish (canned, dried, etc.), fruit (dried), grain (including rice), flour, pulse, hay and chaff, jams, jellies, lard, matches, meats (dried, salted, canned), illuminating oil, salt, soap, starch, sugar, molasses, lumber, vegetables (canned or dried), onions, garlic, still wines and vermouth. Bituminous coal, raw cocoa, and condensed milk are free of duty if of Commonwealth origin.

On motor spirit the duty is 1s. 6d. per gallon (general), 1s. (preferential). There are high specific duties on tea, coffee, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, and wines (other than still wines and vermouth). There is also a trade duty of 2s. 2d. per gallon on spirits. Moderate *ad valorem* duties (as a rule 22½ per cent. general, 15 per cent. preferential) are levied on boots and shoes, brooms and brushes, buckets, chemicals, confectionery, cotton manufactures (other than Sea Island cotton), cutlery, glassware, hardware, hats, hosiery, agricultural equipment (other than implements), jewellery, leather and manufactures, machinery (agricultural, sugar manufacturing, printing), metal manufactures, paper (other than printing paper), toilet preparations, silk and silk manufactures, wood manufactures, wool and manufactures, and all goods not otherwise specified. On motor cars the rate of duty is 30 per cent. general, 15 per cent. preferential, and on bicycles 15 per cent. general, 10 per cent. preferential. Cotton (other than Sea Island) from Commonwealth sources is free of duty, and from foreign sources pays five per cent. and machinery (other than agricultural, sugar manufacturing, and printing) from Commonwealth sources is free of duty or pays 5 per cent., and from foreign sources pays 5 or 7½ per cent.

A surcharge of 25 per cent. of the duty payable is levied on all goods except wheaten flour, coffee, cattle foods, motor vehicles, packing materials, illuminating oils, motor spirit, tobacco and cigarettes, beer, wines and spirits.

The following commodities are free of duty: aviation spirit supplied to aircraft in the colony, books, music, maps, etc., Sea Island cotton and manufactures, eggs, fish (fresh), fruit (fresh), coconuts, copra, firewood, charcoal, agricultural implements and lime (10 per cent. *ad valorem* from foreign sources), manures, meat (fresh), vegetables (fresh, other than garlic or onions), bituminous coal (2d. per ton foreign), raw cocoa (1s. per 100 lb. foreign), condensed milk (2s. up to 48 lb. foreign).

Moderate specific export duties are payable on live animals, bay leaves, bay oil, charcoal, cocoa, coconut oil, coconuts, copra, bananas, hardwood (including logwood), firewood, fruit, honey, molasses and syrup, sugar, whale oil and fish oil, lime juice (raw or concentrated), lime oils, limes (fresh or green).

There are excise duties of 6s. 6d. per proof gallon on rum, and $10·22 per ton on clear sugar manufactured and consumed in the colony.

Labour

The Labour Ordinance of 1938 provided for the appointment of a Labour Officer and Secretary for Labour, whose duties are the supervision and review of labour conditions, enforcement of labour legislation, and matters concerning industrial relations and the welfare of workers generally. The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Enquiry) Ordinance of 1940, which applies in the case of both Government and private employment, provides for the setting up of an Arbitration Tribunal or Board of Enquiry, to report to the Governor, in case of labour disputes. The Factories Ordinance of 1943 provides for the safety of workers in factories. Under the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance of 1948 trade unions must be registered within three months of their formation; they are immune from actions of tort; individual members may contract out of political expenditure, which is only to be undertaken with the consent of the majority of the membership; and peaceful picketing is declared to be legal. Under the Labour (Minimum Wage) Ordinance of 1935, the Governor has powers to fix minimum wages in any occupation by Order-in-Council. An Ordinance of 1939 prohibits the employment of children under 12 and severely limits the employment of children between 12 and 14; the Governor-in-Council has power, however, to make regulations authorising the employment of children under 12 by their parents or guardians in light agricultural or horticultural work, or prohibiting absolutely the employment of children in any occupation, or otherwise prescribing hours and conditions of work. Under an Ordinance of 1934 no young persons between 14 and 18 years of age, or women, may be employed in industry at night, except in undertakings in which only members of the family are employed; young persons from 16 to 18 may, however, be employed at night in certain continuous processes such as sugar making. Children under 14 may only work on ships on which only members of the family are employed. Under the Recruiting of Workers Ordinance of 1939 recruiters must be licensed, and persons under 18 may not be recruited. Recruited workers must be brought before a magistrate and be medically examined, and they may not leave the island without a permit. At the beginning of 1952 an Ordinance was passed giving the Governor power to establish Wages Councils in trades where there is no machinery for the effective regulation of workers' remuneration; these Councils are to consist of representatives of employers and workers in the trades concerned, and they have power to make recommendations regarding remuneration and holidays, which are to be put into effect by order of the Governor.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance of 1941, as amended in 1949, provides for the payment of compensation, in the case of death of $1,920 or 36 months' wages, whichever is less, and in the case of permanent total disablement $1,920 or 48 months' wages in the case of an adult, or $1,920 or 96 months' wages in the case of a minor. For burial expenses $38·40 are paid. Non-manual workers earning over £200 per annum, casual workers, outworkers,

Digitized by Google

domestic servants, clerical workers, shop assistants, and members of the employer's family working in his house are not covered by the Ordinance. Under Ordinances passed in 1941 and 1949 the hours of shop assistants are limited, generally to nine hours a day or 56 hours a week.

Land and Minerals

Aliens and alien companies may hold land and mortgages only under licence granted by the Governor-in-Council. Under the Land Acquisition Ordinance of 1945 the Government has power to acquire land compulsorily for public purposes, subject to the payment of compensation. Prospecting for radio-active minerals may only be carried on with a licence from the Governor, and a permit is necessary for them to be exported.

Immigration

Persons may not enter the colony unless they have valid passports. The entry of persons likely to become a charge on public funds, or regarded as undesirable for other reasons, is prohibited. Transit permits may be issued, covering periods of temporary stay up to 12 months.

Transport and Communications

In the past St. Lucia has been an important coaling station, and there is a good landlocked natural harbour at Castries, one mile long and ¼ mile wide, with a depth in the channel and alongside the wharves of 27 feet; the wharves and buildings are now, however, in need of repair and re-equipment, which it is proposed to undertake as part of the Development Plan. In view of the increased use of oil-burning ships, it is not regarded as likely that the former importance of Castries as a coaling station will be regained. In 1949 and 1950 the tonnage using the Port of Castries was 465,808 and 501,114 respectively; there were 163 steamers in 1949 and 171 in 1950, with a tonnage of 366,299 and 378,468 respectively. The north and south bound services of the Canadian National Steamship Company call at St. Lucia, and there are also calls by vessels of the Alcoa and Harrison Lines, and by steamers of the French Line en route to Martinique and French Guiana. A considerable amount of local traffic is carried by schooners. There are coastal launch services, subsidised by the Government, for the carriage of mails, passengers and cargo between Castries, Soufrière, Vieux-Fort and other places on the leeward side of the island.

The main airport is at Vigie, 1½ miles from Castries. British West Indian Airways planes call on four days of the week, providing services to Jamaica, Trinidad, and other West Indian islands, including the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. Pan-American Airways services, en route between Puerto Rico and Trinidad, call at Beane Field airfield near Vieux-Fort, in the south of the island; this airfield formerly belonged to the United States Base. Both airfields are administered by the Government.

There are no railways or tramways in the islands. There is a fairly adequate system of roads and tracks providing communication between most parts of the island; there are about 60–65 miles of main roads, 90 miles of second-class roads, and 230 miles of unclassified roads and tracks. There are bus services carrying goods, passengers, and mail, between Castries and other centres of population.

There is a telephone system, operated by the Government, connecting the main centres of population, which had 166½ miles of trunk lines and 225 subscribers in 1950. Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited operate a wireless telephone service, which is available between Castries and the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, and the other British West Indian islands.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

Nearly all the land in St. Lucia has been alienated to private owners, though there are some thousands of acres, the greater part consisting of forests in the interior (about 5,000 acres) which are in the possession of the Crown. There may also be other areas, largely consisting of forest, which are in fact Crown land, but owing to historical circumstances the title to these areas is uncertain and cannot be easily proved. Of the total area of approximately 152,000 acres, it is estimated that approximately 23,000 acres is cultivated, but part of this is under shifting cultivation and is not continuously worked; there are also about 12,000 acres of pasture and 9,000 acres of other cultivable land. There is a considerable area of precipitous hillsides and impassable ravines which are unsuitable for agriculture. Semi-productive land, including shrub and grassland and shifting peasant cultivation, is estimated at 61,000 acres.

Agriculture is divided between estates and small holdings. According to the Agricultural Census of 1946, there were 2,980 farms with an area of not less than one acre, the total area of which was 66,127 acres, and 2,044 small plots less than one acre in extent. The following table shows the number of farms of various sizes and the total area of land which they comprised:

SIZE OF FARMS

	1–5 *acres*	5–10 *acres*	10–20 *acres*	20–50 *acres*	50–100 *acres*	100–200 *acres*	*Over* 200 *acres*
Number of farms	857	827	777	372	62	38	43
Total area (acres)	2,404	5,800	11,317	10,749	4,112	5,435	26,310

Peasants mainly own their own land, very little being rented for cash, but some estate land is worked on the share system, and there are also a number of squatters. There are no exact statistics regarding the areas of land under estate and peasant cultivation respectively. Sugar estates are owned by companies, estates under other crops mainly by individuals.

Standards of cultivation are reasonably good on estates, and there is not much tendency to soil erosion where sugar and other permanent crops are grown. There is a large amount of shifting cultivation by peasants, with a corresponding danger of erosion; large areas of land have been alienated to smallholders who are often without agricultural knowledge or experience, with the result that the standard of agriculture on these holdings tends to be lower than in other West Indian colonies. Some terracing, to prevent erosion, is carried out by peasants in the southern part of the island.

There is one small Government land settlement scheme in existence, and there are plans for settling 503 Barbadian families as tenants on 1,200 acres of land at Vieux-Fort near a Government Central Farm. Two other small settlement schemes are also being undertaken.

Livestock are kept by both estates and peasants; the sugar estates use cattle, and also to some extent horses and mules, for transport and cultivation. Smallholders have shown an increasing interest in pig-raising, and the quality of their stock generally has been tending to improve. There is a small export trade in hides and skins and it seems probable that stock-raising could be extended. There are fair numbers of poultry in the island.

According to the 1946 Agricultural census, the numbers of livestock of various kinds in the colony were as follows: cattle 10,383, horses 503, mules 184, donkeys 797, pigs 9,823, sheep and lambs 7,355, goats and kids 6,330, poultry 45,344.

Local Food Products

The greater part of the output of peasant holdings consists of crops for home consumption such as ground provisions, green vegetables, pumpkins, plantains, bread-fruit, maize and rice (mainly grown by East Indians). Bananas, mangoes, grapefruit, avocado pears, and oranges are exported to some extent, though most of the output is consumed in the island.

Digitized by Google

The local diet has an excess of carbohydrates and a deficiency of protein ; the output in the colony of meat, fish and dairy products is inadequate, and there are large imports of preserved fish and meat, butter, cheese and animal fats. It has been suggested that the setting up of local processing plants for cattle, pork and dairy products would encourage increased output. The Agricultural Department is to operate a small rice mill, which has been obtained with a C.D. and W. grant, and it appears likely that the production of rice can be increased from its present level of about 2,000 bags annually, even if the full requirements of the colony (about 15,000 bags annually) will not be able to be met locally. It is proposed to set up additional rice mills to deal with the increased output.

Cash Crops

Sugar

Sugar is the colony's most important crop, and has accounted for 35 per cent. to 55 per cent. annually of all exports in recent years. It is grown in three alluvial valleys, running down to the sea (which facilitates the shipment of produce) ; these valleys appear to be the only areas with soil suitable for its economical cultivation. They are separated by high and steep mountain ridges, which limit the area which can be cultivated, and also prevent the centralisation of sugar manufacture—each valley is owned by a separate company which has its own sugar factory and rum distillery. The total area devoted to sugar cane is about 2,500 acres. The standards of cultivation and milling on the estates are good, and factory re-equipment and some mechanisation of cultivation have been undertaken in recent years, as well as the use of improved varieties of cane. Both pen manure and artificial fertilisers are used, and as a result of the rich soil and adequate rainfall yield has been high—approximately 25–30 tons of cane per acre. Before the war there was also an area devoted to sugar cultivation at Vieux-Fort, in the south of the island, with a factory, but most of the suitable land there was taken over by the United States Base during the war years, and cultivation has not yet been restarted. There is as well a certain amount of sugar cultivation on peasant holdings, or by peasants working estate land on the share system ; the cane is sold to the estate factories.

The following table shows the amount of exports each year from 1938 to 1950 ; the annual consumption of locally-produced sugar in the colony is estimated at approximately 1,600 tons.

There are also small exports of molasses.

Coconuts

Coconuts, which are grown on estates, and their products are the next most important export from the island, and are cultivated on about 6,000 acres. The following table shows the exports of coconuts, copra, etc. :

COCONUT PRODUCTS—EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Coconuts no.	2,674,148	2,796,581	3,336,107	3,977,772	880,270	541,170	477,082	362,164	349,759	449,569	414,715	251,100	147,365
Copra .. lb.	685,969	1,295,461	1,197,339	604,688	715,680	2,392,320	3,012,800	3,473,344	3,911,376	3,303,888	2,266,712	2,595,075	2,360,735
Coconut oil gals.	—	14	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	22,029	225	40,105	46,545

It is estimated that about 600 tons of coconuts—approximately one-quarter of the total output—are used locally. Since the war the entire export surplus of copra has been sent to Barbados for processing, but a factory is being erected on a co-operative basis by the growers, for the production of coconut oil, with coconut meal as a by-product. This factory was expected to be completed in 1951, and to require at first about 300 tons of copra, rising progressively to 600 tons ; it will supply the colony's needs for edible oil, and the coconut meal will provide a regular supply of feed for livestock at a very much lower price than is paid for imports. There appear to be possibilities of using other coconut by-products, and it is suggested that, for example, coconut matting might be made.

Cocoa

Cocoa is grown mainly on estates, but also to some extent on peasant holdings, the area grown being 1,000–1,500 acres. Exports have been as follows :

COCOA EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Raw Cocoa lb.	694,228	358,090	672,955	435,568	434,224	375,648	500,640	536,368	311,348	931,312	570,752	636,404	578,256

Cocoa planting has been increasing in recent years as a result of the high prices prevailing. A local cocoa propagation centre is being established under a C.D. and W. scheme, and improved plants from the strains tested by the Imperial College of Agriculture in Trinidad are being distributed ; the demand for these plants is proving much greater than was expected when the centre was planned.

Cotton

Cotton is grown on estates. Since the war the Sea Island variety has been introduced, the St. Vincent V.135 strain being used. Tractors and heavy mechanical tillage implements have been provided by the Agricultural Department under a C.D. and W. scheme to assist in the cultivation of the heavy clay soils, and with this assistance, and an assurance that considerable quantities would be bought at guaranteed prices by the United Kingdom Raw Cotton Commission, production has expanded rapidly in recent years.

Exports have been as below :

SUGAR EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Sugar—tons ..	7,806	7,182	6,936	8,812	5,684	6,115	4,975	4,639	4,320	3,941	6,568	7,156	8,629

COTTON EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Raw Cotton lb.	9,600	3,384	6,000	5,159	11,361	2,387	7,534	6,542	—	1,924	1,700	12,445	21,000

Digitized by Google

Limes

Limes are grown mainly on small estates. Production is considerably less than pre-war, mainly owing to the attacks of pests and diseases, but there has recently been some increase in output. Exports of lime products have been as follows :

LIME PRODUCTS—EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Limes, green bunches	2,599	1,850	1,242	1,735	185	59	31	14	120	111	77	100	123
Lime juice, raw gals.	31,216	26,863	25,378	35,200	19,614	1,458	13,981	17,162	1,444	13,923	12,764	5,519	9,951
Lime oil, distilled lb.	9,395	12,417	5,247	8,852	4,090	5,833	4,473	384	2,914	374	2,972	249	1,454
Lime oil, hand-pressed .. lb.	876	771	595	535	240	190	141	—	—	—	175	—	—

Bananas

Bananas are entirely a peasant crop. Before the war there was a fair-sized export trade, but this was brought to an end by the lack of shipping facilities during the war years, and was not revived until 1951, when a contract was made between a local producers' association and a banana purchasing and shipping firm. A considerable amount of planting has taken place, a good many plants being distributed by the Government. Exports have been as follows :

BANANA EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Bananas bunches	100,726	74,496	69,190	57,554	n.a.	93	38	82	66	1,511	2,033	119	2,157

Other Agricultural Products

As well as the small export trade in fruits and vegetables, produced on peasant holdings, there are also exports of spices, of which nutmegs and mace are the most important. The amounts of these exports have been as follows :—

NUTMEGS AND MACE—EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Nutmegs .. lb.	15,201	4,654	5,940	7,881	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12,482	8,081	29,406	20,395	14,280	21,689
Mace .. lb.	2,183	1,200	514	1,064	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,552	4,050	3,569	2,537	1,707	3,365

Honey

Bee-keeping is widely practised, and there is a valuable export trade in honey. The quantities exported have been as follows :—

HONEY EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Honey .. lb.	51,702	96,225	85,827	107,884	111,155	64,916	108,538	105,747	105,325	131,914	148,958	108,465	77,107

Forestry

There are about 15,000 acres of rain forest, which should belong to the Crown, though its legal title is definite only in the case of about 5,000 acres in the interior. Most of this forest is still in good condition ; at lower elevations it is of *Dacryodes-Sloanea* association, with trees about 120 ft. high, and a typical sample has shown eight marketable trees per acre—six Gommier, one Bois pain marron, and one Angelin. At higher elevations also there is rich forest, and a sample taken here has shown 15 marketable trees to the acre—five Balata, three Balata chien, three Gommier, two Merise, one Bois blanc, and one Bois pain marron. On the mountain tops the woods are small as a result of wind and lack of soil.

Elsewhere there has been much destruction. There are about 26,000 acres of dry woodlands growing on hills with very little soil ; they supply considerable quantities of wood and charcoal for use as fuel, but are too frequently felled over, so that trees do not reach a reasonable size, and there are tendencies towards erosion. On about 17,000 acres of secondary rain forest with peasant gardens there are only tree ferns and trees of no timber value, and there are about 3,200 acres of scrub and grassland containing only scattered thorn bush, also of no timber value.

Under the Forest, Soil and Water Conservation Ordinance of 1945 the Government has considerable powers to preserve forests. No locally-grown timber may be moved without written permission, and all timber dealers must be registered. The Governor can declare any Crown Land to be Forest Reserves, in which no land can be granted or sold. Lands other than Crown Lands may be declared Protected Forests, when the Governor holds this to be necessary to prevent erosion or wastage of timber resources, maintain water supplies, or protect roads, and the Governor-in-Council may make orders regulating or prohibiting felling, cutting, or burning of timber, clearing or breaking up land for cultivation, pasturing livestock, etc. There are also powers to prevent squatting on Crown Lands.

Local timber is used for scantlings and constructional timber, boards, furniture, shingles, and canoes. As logs cannot be extracted from the mountainous country, all timber is hand sawn ; at Soufrière there is a planing mill operated by water power, and other machinery for finishing and working up hand sawn lumber. The amount of timber extracted—most of which is used locally—under the supervision of the Forestry Division was 520,090 board feet in 1947, 504,022 board feet in 1948, 560,288 board feet in 1949, and 412,603 board feet in 1950. Exports of charcoal, which are of some importance, have been as follows :—

CHARCOAL EXPORTS

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Charcoal .. bags	33,321	26,954	28,468	23,705	22,370	61,204	79,820	78,084	75,771	77,605	37,954	27,130	19,270

Digitized by Google

Fisheries

There are about 600 vessels engaged in fishing, and about 1,700 fishermen. Most fishing takes place off the leeward coast, where dolphin, kingfish, albacore, bonito, marlin, sailfish and other varieties are caught. There is some fishing from canoes off the windward coast when weather conditions are sufficiently moderate.

The annual catch is estimated at from 2,000,000 to 3,400,000 lb. There is a fish market at Castries and accommodation for the sale of fish at other markets.

Minerals

No valuable minerals have been found in the colony, but there are large quantities of good quality sand which appear to be suitable for glass-making. There are small supplies of sulphur at Soufrière. There are good earths and clays for making pottery and tiles, and abundant supplies of lime round the coast.

Manufactures

There are a small number of industrial establishments, mainly engaged in processing agricultural produce. Apart from the three sugar factories, there are three small rice mills, and two plants for the processing of copra, a soap plant, a small cigarette-making factory, and some mineral-water plants.

Village Industries

There are a number of profitable cottage industries, including pottery, basket, broom, chair, rope and hat-making. There appear to be considerable possibilities of extending these industries and establishing others such as needlework, jam-making, and bead-work. The sum of £1,000 has been allotted in the Development Plan to assist in the furtherance of cottage industries.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

A tourist trade had been developed to some extent before the war, and there appear to be possibilities for expansion; though no definite steps have been taken so far, an allotment of £5,000 for assisting the tourist industry has been made in the Development Plan. There are a number of hotels which cater for tourists.

Professions

At the time of the 1946 census, there were nine doctors, two dentists, 61 nurses, seven lawyers, 412 teachers, and one architect in the colony.

Co-operative Movement

Co-operative Societies may be registered under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance of 1946; if they are registered their rules must be approved and their accounts must receive an approved audit. Under regulations issued in connection with this Ordinance each Society is required to have an Education Committee, to promote education in co-operation among its members; this requirement is unique in Colonial co-operative legislation. A Co-operative Societies Officer, with the duties of promoting and guiding co-operative organisation, was appointed in 1948.

At the end of 1950 there were two consumers' societies, one of which was registered; four Credit Unions (two registered); a transport society formed to operate a bus service; a beekeepers' society, for the co-operative sale of honey; and a livestock co-operative union, with members throughout the island. There were as well a cane farmers' association, a copra processing society, and a fishermen's society, which were not registered. No statistics of membership are available.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

At the time of the 1946 census there were 21,479 wage and salary earners—12,337 men and 9,142 women. The numbers in the principal industrial groups are shown in the following table:—

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Agriculture	6,459	4,549	11,008
Sugar planting	2,667	2,012	4,679
Mixed farming	3,422	2,341	5,763
Quarrying, mining	36	32	68
Fishing, hunting	186	3	189
Forestry	34	5	39
Manufacture and repair	1,357	816	2,173
Construction	1,962	764	2,726
Transport and communications	515	23	538
Trade and finance	231	399	630
Services	1,296	2,366	3,662
Domestic service	107	1,424	1,531

The number of persons recorded as unemployed was 2,726—1,271 men and 1,041 women—or approximately 12·7 per cent. of the total. In view of the restricted opportunities for employment which exist, it is probable that there is at most times a fairly high rate of unemployment, as well as under-employment due to the seasonal nature of most agricultural work, though no regular statistics are available. The Labour Department gives some assistance in obtaining employment, though there is no organised system of employment exchanges. With the rebuilding of Castries, the Colonial Development Corporation has become the main employer of labour, and over 1,100 workers have been absorbed more or less permanently in the building industry. There are, however, insufficient employment opportunities for women.

Statutory minimum wages were fixed as follows in 1950:—

Agricultural workers (per day of eight hours):
Men, 84 cents; women, 62 cents. Boys, 14–16, 42 cents; 16–18, 58 cents. Girls, 14–16, 36 cents; 16–18, 44 cents.

Shop assistants (per month):
Men, $18·00–$20·40; women $15·00–$16·80, for a working week of 41 to 56 hours.

Wages in other occupations were as follows:—

Sugar estates (per day of eight hours):
Labourers—Men, 98 cents; women, 68 cents. Boys, 14–16, 47 cents; 16–18, 58 cents. Girls, 14–16, 38 cents; 16–18, 44 cents.

Castries Reconstruction:
Labourers (minimum per day)—Men, $1·04; women, 88 cents.
Electricians, welders, turners (per hour)—semi-skilled, 16½–21½ cents; skilled 22½–34½ cents.
Joiners, mechanics (per hour)—semi-skilled, 16½–18½ cents; skilled 19½–29½ cents.
Masons, carpenters, plumbers, painters (per hour)—semi-skilled, 16½–18½ cents; skilled 18½–26½ cents.
Chauffeurs (per hour)—19½–25½ cents.
These rates are linked to the cost-of-living index.

Waterfront workers (per hour):
36–52 cents; overtime 54–78 cents.

Domestic Servants (per month, average working day of 12 hours):
With board and lodging $2·40–$8·40; without board and lodging, $4·80–$13·20.

There are two trade unions, the St. Lucia Workers Co-operative Union, catering for all classes of workers, which had a nominal membership of 2,500 in 1950, and the St. Lucia Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union, with a nominal membership of 750.

Migrant Labour

There is a certain amount of recruitment for work in the Dutch islands of Curaçao and Aruba; in 1948, for instance, 494 workers went to these islands. A few also go further afield.

Digitized by Google

Fuel and Power (including Water)

Wood is the principal source of fuel; kerosene is used for lighting.

There is a diesel-operated electric power station in Castries, run by the Town Board. It has recently been extended, and contains one 155 kW. generating set, one of 144 kW., two sets of 103·5 kW., and one of 72 kW. The total number of consumers in 1950 was 1,005, of whom 25 were power consumers, and the total output was 750,000 units. The surroundings of Castries are also supplied.

There are small electric plants driven by water power in the villages of Anse-La-Raye (municipally-owned) and Soufrière (privately-owned); the latter also supplies Vieux-Fort. A scheme for enlarging it and extending its area of supply is under consideration.

There is a pipe-line water supply in Castries and some of the surrounding areas, administered by the Castries Town Board. There are two reservoirs, and the supply amounts to about 250,000 gallons per day. A scheme for extending the area of supply, and increasing the available flow to 800,000 gallons per day, is now in progress.

There are piped water supplies in most of the rural centres, though in many cases the system of supply is in need of improvement.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Annual revenue and expenditure during the period 1938–51 are shown in the following table :—

ANNUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1938–51

	Local Revenue	*Grants*	*Total Revenue*	*Total Expenditure*
	£	£	£	£
1938	88,511	5,974 C.D.	94,485	105,205
1939	92,787	676 C.D. 4,859 Storm relief 31,839 Special grants	130,161	132,732
1940	93,082*	7,000 Grant-in-Aid 1,008 C.D. 2,313 Special grants	103,403	115,622
1941	141,594*	10,000 Grant-in-Aid 1,555 C.D. 8,759 Special grants	161,908	111,061
1942	175,555*	121 Special grant	175,676	135,623
1943	184,856	10 Special grant 8,700 C.D.W.	193,566	165,609
1944	187,400	357 Special grant 28,567 C.D.W.	207,405	207,479
1945	178,480	357 Special grant 100,616 C.D.W.	279,457	352,512
1946	252,601	105,787 C.D.W.	358,388	308,194
1947	253,512	29,242 C.D.W.	282,754	325,357
	$	$	$	$
1948	1,384,750	392,305 C.D.W.	1,778,134	1,492,882
1949	1,864,023	981,130 C.D.W.	2,845,153	2,869,996
1950	1,805,141	1,152,154 C.D.W.	2,957,295	3,249,639
1951 (revised estimates)	2,283,188	1,000,000 C.D.W.	3,283,188	3,531,556

* Including subscriptions to war funds—£2,100 in 1940, £2,900 in 1941, and £650 in 1942.

Individual items of revenue and expenditure have been as follows in recent years :—

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

Revenue	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Customs	751,454	758,608	1,065,000
Import duties	684,054	678,387	950,000
Export duties	67,400	80,221	115,000
Harbour dues	25,322	39,475	42,000
Internal revenue	492,091	503,784	579,000
Excise duties	145,823	128,212	212,000
Income tax	253,075	235,157	264,000 (approved estimates)
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	253,770	56,741	320,068
Post Office	291,138	84,843	104,000
Stamp sales	281,792	75,142	n.a.
Telephones, Electricity, Refrigeration	7,344	8,524	10,100
Rent, Interest, etc.	42,904	49,608	162,520
Total local revenue	1,861,281	1,805,141	2,283,188
C.D. and W. grants	981,130	1,152,154	1,000,000
Total revenue	2,845,153	2,957,295	3,283,188

Digitized by Google

Expenditure	1949 (*actual*)	1950 (*actual*)	1951 (*revised estimates*)
	$	$	$
Governor	8,970	8,061	9,728
Legislature	6,637	10,130	9,980
Administration	102,197	121,711	93,695
Agriculture and Forests	123,608	119,516	107,577
Audit	10,977	10,545	15,609
Central Housing Authority	110,305	34,872	15,155
Education	135l389	147,348	259,722
Labour	5,586	5,738	10,691
Lands and Survey	16,630	20,806	30,217
Legal, Judicial	36,469	36,725	47,851
Medical	173,537	190,183	240,740
Miscellaneous	323,326	416,884	487,526
Pensions	53,520	63,909	74,751
Police	132,509	148,770	226,191
Port and Marine	19,565	22,235	24,434
Post Office	45,384	53,077	50,437
Prisons	36,987	31,895	42,810
Public Debt	38,173	102,206	194,336
Public Library	—	—	4,364
Public Works	39,940	38,478	51,780
Public Works Recurrent	241,620	194,859	232,855
Public Works Extraordinary	72,964	58,823	133,930
Social Welfare	—	22,273	31,989
Telephones	30,566	27,485	31,272
Treasury	64,324	67,682	85,376
Total expenditure from local funds	1,836,183	1,954,206	2,531,556
C.D. and W. schemes	1,033,813	1,295,433	1,000,000
Total expenditure	2,869,996	3,249,639	3,531,556

At December 31st, 1950, the amount of the Public Debt was $2,627,741, against which there were accumulated sinking funds of $406,576. There was a deficit on the General Revenue Balance of $743,696 at the end of 1949 and of $1,058,379 at the end of 1950.

The rate of income tax is 6d. in the £ on incomes up to £100 per annum, rising by 6d. in the £ on each £100 up to incomes of £1,000–£1,100, on which the rate is 6s. 6d. in the £; subsequently the rate rises by 1s. stages to 13s. in the £ on incomes over £5,000. Allowances of one-tenth, to a maximum of £100, are given for earned income, £50 for a wife, and £25 for each child up to 16; for children over 16, who are being educated outside the colony, the cost of education is allowed, up to a maximum of £150 (less the value of any scholarship). Taxation on companies is at the rate of 6s. 6d. in the £.

The rates of succession duty are from one per cent. on estates of from $500 to $1,500, up to 25 per cent. on estates over $385,000. Estates passing to near relatives pay duty at half rate.

There is a tax on all land outside towns or villages at the rate of 24 cents per acre or part of an acre, and on houses (also outside towns or villages) at rates varying from $1·80 on houses with annual rental of from $25 to $35, to $6·72 on houses with an annual rental of $80 to $100 and seven per cent. if the rental is over $100.

Currency and Banking

The currency used is the British West Indies dollar, the value of which is $4·80 to the £. St. Lucia is participating in the unified currency system for the eastern Caribbean, which was inaugurated in 1951, and the new notes came into circulation in the autumn of that year. (*See* Appendix, page 273.) Prior to this Trinidad Government notes were used; notes issued by Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.) are also in circulation. Sterling coin is used but the amount in circulation is not known. Note circulation in recent years has been as follows :—

Since January, 1948, Government and other public accounts have been kept in dollars, instead of sterling as previously.

There are three banks operating in the colony—Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.), the St. Lucia Co-operative Bank Limited, and the Government Savings Bank. The St. Lucia Co-operative Bank, which was established in 1937 with an authorised capital of $150,000, had 1,211 depositors in 1949 and 1,297 depositors in 1950, with total holdings of $739,575 and $966,705 respectively. The bank, which does a fair business in small short-term loans, declared a dividend of 9 per cent. in 1949 and 10 per cent. in 1950, and it has been found necessary to limit new applicants to a holding of 50 shares. The Government Savings Bank has offices in six centres in the island. At the end of 1949 and 1950 the Bank had 2,170 and 2,195 depositors, and the amount of deposits was $344,053 and $378,591 respectively.

Under an Ordinance of 1940 the Governor has powers, on the recommendation of an Advisory Committee, to make loans up to £20 in any one instance to peasant owners for cultivation purposes, such loans to be a first charge against the value of the holding and the year's crop, and an Ordinance of 1949 gives the Governor powers to make loans to fishermen for repairing fishing boats or gear, or completing their construction. In either case the loans are made out of public funds voted by the Legislative Council.

Private Investment

Of the locally-registered companies, nearly all of which are private companies, the three sugar estates, which together have a capital of £395,000, are the largest element; there are also a number of other estate companies and merchants, the largest of which has a capital of £200,000. Thirteen insurance companies registered abroad (11 of them in the United Kingdom) have offices in St. Lucia; these form by far the largest group of foreign-registered

NOTE CIRCULATION

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
	$	$	$	$	$
Barclays Bank (D.C. and O.)	104,155	101,500	145,870	128,280	140,960
Trinidad Government	474,000	400,000	504,140	457,140	477,140
Total	578,155	501,500	650,010	585,420	618,100

Digitized by Google

companies. Others include a boot and shoe company, and various merchanting establishments. There are no building societies.

National Income

The national income of St. Lucia has been roughly estimated by Professor C. Y. Shephard as being about $5,000,000 per annum or $65 per head; this estimate is, however, based on information relating to the year 1942, and, allowing for the rise in the general price-level since that date, the comparable figure for 1951 would probably be in the region of $100 per head.

Cost of Living

A cost-of-living index is compiled by the Labour Department; as, however, the weighting of this index is based on budget enquiry held in Trinidad in 1935, it gives only a rough indication of changes in the local cost of living in recent years. Its movements since the war have been as follows:—

September, 1939 = 100

Sept. 1946	Sept. 1947	Sept. 1948	Sept. 1949	Sept. 1950	Sept. 1951
194	222	230	241	246	259

The prices of most important commodities are subject to control.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Imports, exports, and re-exports during the period 1938–50 (excluding the years 1942–44, for which statistics are not available) have been as follows:—

TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

	Retained imports	*Domestic exports*	*Re-exports*
	£	£	£
1938	146,036	126,640	43,267
1939	178,000	113,024	44,153
1940	186,021	125,479	55,372
1941	239,943	153,636	122,342
	$	$	$
1945	1,879,435	828,417	91,985
1946	2,229,077	827,768	96,320
1947	2,984,573	1,195,189	80,923
1948	3,630,818	1,298,907	89,654
1949	5,184,938	1,420,293	63,249
1950	6,188,041	1,925,410	205,401

The principal imports and exports, with their chief sources and destinations, in the years 1938 and 1949 (the most recent for which detailed statistics are available) are shown in the tables on pages 256 and 257.

The distribution of trade in 1938, 1949 and 1950 is shown in the following table:—

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE

	Imports			*Exports*		
	1938 %	1949 %	1950 %	1938 %	1949 %	1950 %
United Kingdom	37·6	48·4	55·3	29·8	56·0	60·4
Canada	17·4	21·6	14·2	48·8	2·6	6·8
Other Commonwealth Countries	14·0	14·0	17·2	15·5	27·9	27·5
U.S.A.	18·8	13·8	7·0	5·1	13·8	9·5
Other Foreign Countries ..	12·2	2·2	6·4	0·8	2·0	1·8

There is an import licensing system; as in other territories, official policy has been to reduce dollar imports as far as possible, especially since the revaluation of sterling in 1949.

It is usual for St. Lucia to have a considerable surplus of merchandise imports; this surplus has been accounted for by the services rendered when the coaling of ships was carried out at Castries, in pre-war days, imports connected with development and reconstruction work, paid for by United Kingdom grants and St. Lucia loans, which have been especially large during the post-war period, and arrears of capital expenditure by private concerns, which have been made up in the years after the war. During the war years there was considerable expenditure by the United States authorities in connection with the forces stationed in the island. There are also likely to have been remittances home by workers who have gone to other territories, though the amounts of these remittances will not have been at all large.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

In 1948 a Revised Development Sketch Plan was produced, covering the years 1946–56 (following a Development Sketch Plan for 1946–50, which had been produced in 1945). These plans comprised a list of development schemes which were being undertaken or were proposed. At the time of the Revised Plan the funds available for development in St. Lucia were estimated at a total of £898,899, made up as follows:—

	£
St. Lucia's share of the C.D. and W. allocation for the Windward Islands (£1,850,000) including allowance for airfield construction (£26,000) ..	400,631
Loans	336,962
Local revenue	161,306
Total	£898,899

It was estimated that the completion of schemes approved under the 1940 Act would require £104,957 from the 1945 allocation. A total expenditure of £904,868 was envisaged in the Revised Plan (the balance of funds being obtained from the unexpended part of the allocation for common Windward Islands schemes), the main heads of expenditure being as follows:—

DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXPENDITURE

	£
Communications	232,725
Harbour	33,500
Roads	141,500
Economic Development	208,336
Land and Soil Surveys	3,610
Agricultural Stations and Demonstration Centres	25,961
Cocoa Propagation	24,273
Banana Cultivation	6,000
Other Agricultural Development ..	48,302
Land Settlement	34,188
Marketing and Co-operation	11,710
Agricultural Mechanical Equipment ..	10,000
Secondary Industries	4,100
Cottage Industries	1,000
Tourist Industry	5,000
Social Services	148,666
Medical (mainly Hospitals and Health Centres)	31,915
Education (School Buildings, Equipment, Teacher Training)	100,250
Social Welfare, Miscellaneous ..	16,501
Town Planning, Housing, etc. ..	275,171
Housing and Slum Clearance ..	66,148
Water Supply, Sanitation	134,032
Rural Electrification	20,345
Total	£904,868

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949		
		Quantity	Value	Main Sources	Quantity	Value	Main Sources
			$	$000		$	$000
Rice	lb.	655,597	14,284	Br. Guiana (12·9), India (1·0).	714,905	41,528	Br. Guiana (39·0), Brazil (2·4).
Wheaten Flour	lb.	3,338,483	100,377	Canada (90·2), U.K. (9·6).	5,287,485	416,487	Canada (416·3).
Butter and butter substitutes	lb.	167,633	25,032	U.K. (8·6), France (4·8), New Zealand (4·3), Holland (3·8).	291,929	138,902	Australia (69·6), Barbados (65·5), Canada (3·7).
Edible oil	gals.	42,239	25,810	U.K. (21·6), Trinidad (2·4).	9,157	11,196	Barbados (9·0), France (1·8).
Fish, canned, preserved, salted, etc.	lb.	712,118	36,163	Canada (35·5)	936,188	219,283	Canada (216·9).
Meat, canned, salted, etc. (all kinds)	lb.	67,106	9,072	Argentine (3·8), U.K. (3·3), Canada (1·4).	168,816	71,694	Canada (36·0), Australia (22·1), Paraguay (8·2), Denmark (3·1).
Soap, common and fancy	lb.	313,551	17,040	U.K. (14·4)	—	22,627	U.K. (11·5), Barbados (5·5), U.S.A. (4·3), Canada (1·1).
Spirits, rum, etc.	gals.	2,461	13,262	U.K. (8·6), Barbados (2·4).	8,303	48,937	Barbados (34·5), U.K. (10·3), France (2·0).
Tobacco, cigarettes, etc.	lb.	56,730	27,561	U.K. (18·7), Canada (9·1).	130,379	121,685	U.K. (62·6), Canada (43·6), U.S.A. (14·6).
Apparel (shirts, ties, other)	—	—	11,092	U.K. (4·3), Hong Kong (1·9), Japan (1·9), U.S.A. (1·4).	—	73,645	U.S.A. (33·2), U.K. (17·0), Hong Kong (14·6), Canada (4·7), Br. Guiana (2·4).
Boots and shoes (all kinds)	doz. pairs	3,687	25,785	Czechoslovakia (12·0), U.K. (6·7), India (4·3).	4,980	125,470	U.K. (62·7), Canada (27·9) U.S.A. (21·4), India (10·4).
Haberdashery and hosiery	—	—	13,805	U.K. (6·7), U.S.A. (2·5), Japan (1·4).	—	74,980	U.K. (44·7), U.S.A. (17·6), Canada (8·4).
Cotton piece goods	yds.	767,007	75,355	U.K. (46·0), U.S.A. (24·0).	436,342	195,186	U.S.A. (118·9), U.K. (44·8), Canada (23·9), Hong Kong (6·1).
Cotton manufactures (all kinds)	—	—	16,291	U.K. (9·6), U.S.A. (2·4)	—	103,215	U.S.A. (42·3), U.K. (40·1), Canada (9·3), India (6·6).
Wool, woollen manufactures and piece goods	—	—	5,443	U.K. (3·3), Japan (2·0)	—	34,715	U.K. (34·6).
Artificial silk piece goods	yds.	66,599	11,160	U.K. (5·2), France (1·4), Japan (1·2).	158,270	105,903	U.S.A. (58·5), U.K. (33·6), Canada (11·7).
Bags and sacks (empty)	doz.	6,467	8,726	India (8·1)	21,622	129,337	India (122·7), Belgium (6·5).
Machinery (all kinds)	—	—	36,513	U.K. (24·9), Belgium (7·6), U.S.A. (1·9).	—	357,424	U.K. (293·0), U.S.A. (59·6).
Electrical apparatus (all kinds)	—	—	12,057	U.K. (8·6), U.S.A. (2·3)	—	101,222	U.K. (70·8), U.S.A. (19·8), Canada (5·9).
Motor cars and trucks	no.	25	15,297	Canada (10·0)	81	140,531	U.K. (136·7).
Hardware	—	—	12,106	U.K. (4·4), U.S.A. (2·6), Japan (1·8).	—	152,934	U.K. (99·0), U.S.A. (26·7), Canada (21·6).
Implements and tools	—	—	6,192	U.K. (5·8)	—	117,787	U.K. (69·0), U.S.A. (47·0).
Iron and steel manufactures	—	—	18,403	U.K. (13·9), Canada (3·7).	—	602,924	U.K. (591·7), Canada (5·4), U.S.A. (2·7).
Coal	tons	17,137	99,130	U.K. (all)	56	2,039	U.K. (0·8), Trinidad (0·5), U.S.A. (0·5).
Oils—fuel, lubricating, motor spirit, etc.	gals.	219,530	36,902	Trinidad (30·2), U.K. (4·8).	530,230	149,690	Trinidad (123·3), U.S.A. (14·3), U.K. (11·8).
Cement	tons	271	5,549	U.K. (5·3)	2,777	102,730	U.K. (98·0), Jamaica (4·7).
Medicines and drugs	—	—	16,886	U.K. (9·6), U.S.A. (4·4)	—	59,672	U.K. (37·0), Canada (13·5), U.S.A. (6·9).
Manures, chemical	tons	611	18,408	U.K. (15·8)	—	129,462	U.K. (98·6), Holland (15·8), U.S.A. (14·9).

Digitized by Google

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	1938			1949		
		Quantity	Value	Main Destinations	Quantity	Value	Main Destinations
			$	$000		$	$000
Sugar	tons	7,806	310,612	Canada (180·0), U.K. (130·0).	7,516	819,462	U.K. (all).
Coconuts	no.	2,674,148	39,734	Canada (21·6), U.K. (12·4), Barbados (1·9) U.S.A. (1·9).	251,100	7,662	Barbados (7·6).
Coconut Oil	gals.	—	—	—	40,105	67,071	Barbados (all).
Copra	lb.	685,969	13,948	Barbados (10·5), U.K. (1·4), Trinidad (1·4).	2,595,075	242,873	Barbados (all).
Limes, green	barrels	2,599	16,214	U.S.A. (6·2), Bermuda (4·8), Canada (3·8).	100	820	Bermuda (0·7).
Lime Oil (distilled) ..	gals.	1,105	40,089	U.S.A. (20·1), Canada (17·2), U.K. (1·9).	249	1,648	U.S.A. (all).
Cocoa (raw)	lb.	694,228	39,993	U.K. (20·1), Canada (18·2).	629,777	183,300	U.S.A. (all).
Bananas	bunches	100,726	65,126	Canada (64·3)	119	148	Barbados (all).
Cotton	lb.	9,600	3,518	U.K. (3·3)	12,445	11,449	U.K. (all).
Charcoal	bags	33,321	7,713	Barbados (6·7)	27,130	25,706	Barbados (25·5).

Following a further survey of Development expenditure which was carried out in 1950, it was found that the C.D. and W. funds available would not be sufficient for all the proposed schemes, and it was suggested that cuts amounting altogether to £56,566 should be made—£20,658 on Economic Development schemes, £9,280 on Social Services, and £26,628 on Town Planning and Housing.

The Revised Plan has not yet been considered for approval by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as the island's situation has been radically changed by the Castries fire which occurred in June, 1948, and led to the destruction of the central part of the town. In the meantime, however, an additional C.D. and W. allocation of £150,000 for the construction of feeder roads has been approved, and in 1951 a team of experts visited St. Lucia to advise on further possibilities of agricultural development; their report is expected to be published during 1952.

The reconstruction of Castries is being supervised by the Colonial Development Corporation; the greater part of the funds required are being provided by the United Kingdom Government, which has agreed to make available financial assistance up to £1,025,000. It was expected that the balance would be obtained through the raising of St. Lucia Government loans amouting to some £285,000, and accordingly certain schemes in the Development Plan, providing for rehousing, water supply, sewerage, etc., in Castries, have been transferred to the reconstruction programme and their cost will be met from loan finance. By the end of 1951 a great deal of the work of rebuilding Castries had been carried out, and throughout the colony most of the approved schemes in the Development Plan were either in progress or completed.

Other Development

While no detailed particulars are available, it can be stated that a certain amount of private industrial and agricultural development is taking place, for example, re-equipment in the sugar industry, the establishment of a copra-pressing factory, and building in Castries; in the case of the last-mentioned, Government loans amounting to £250,000 have been made available to private persons for rebuilding.

Digitized by Google

ST. VINCENT

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

Geographical Features

The Colony of St. Vincent, one of the Windward Group, consists of the island of St. Vincent and certain of the Grenadines to the southward, the most important of the latter being Bequia, Union, Canouan, Mayreau and Mustique. St. Vincent lies 25 miles south of St. Lucia, 100 miles west of Barbados and 70 miles north of Grenada. Union Island, southernmost of the St. Vincent Grenadines, lies some 40 miles distant from the parent island.

The island of St. Vincent is elliptical in shape with a greatest length, in a north-south direction, of 18 miles, and a breadth of 11 miles. Its area is approximately 133 square miles (85,120 acres). The Grenadines are relatively small islets ; their total area is about 17½ square miles (11,100 acres). The only urban centre of any size is Kingstown, the capital.

St. Vincent is extremely mountainous ; a range runs from north to south dividing the island into two nearly equal parts, and these are further subdivided by lateral spurs from the central ridge to the coast. On the eastern side the slopes are gentler and enclose flat shallow valleys which occasionally merge into coastal plains. The northern part of the island is dominated by the Soufriere mountain (4,048 ft.), an intermittently active volcano. The Grenadines also are hilly, but their highest point is only 1,010 ft. The higher parts of the central St. Vincent ridge and the lateral spurs are covered in dense forest, and there are numerous small rivers running from the mountains to the sea.

The average annual rainfall in St. Vincent appears to vary from some 60 inches annually on the coasts to 150 inches in the central mountains. At the Botanic Gardens above Kingstown, the average monthly figures from 1894–1947 were :—

AVERAGE MONTHLY RAINFALL

Jan.	*Feb.*	*Mar.*	*Apr.*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*	*Total*
6·21	3·99	3·88	3·93	6·70	10·61	11·65	11·36	11·64	11·59	11·67	7·95	101·17

In the Grenadines rainfall is considerably lower, averaging approximately 35 inches a year.

There is a relatively dry season from January to May, which is most marked along the coast and in the Grenadines. The temperature ranges from 67° F. to 89° F., the coolest months being from December to April. Humidity is relatively low, particularly along the coastal belt, being about 70 per cent. of saturation with a maximum of 80 per cent. in rainy weather. The island is in the hurricane belt, although severe hurricanes are not very frequent.

St. Vincent is wholly volcanic in origin ; its soils consist of yellow earth (derived from agglomerates, ash, and lava), alluvial soils (consisting chiefly of volcanic sand), and volcanic ash. The soils are light and sandy, neutral to slightly acid and very permeable by water ; they have high contents of unaltered minerals, medium to high contents of organic matter which penetrates deeply and is sometimes poorly humified, variable nitrogen contents and variable, though low, contents of available potash and phosphate, and low contents of colloidal matter. The porosity of the soil, the steep slopes and the exposure to wind and sun of the open arable fields make the danger of erosion great.

The soils of the Grenadines (which are geologically distinct from St. Vincent) are mostly shales.

Population

The estimated population of the Colony at the end of 1950 was 67,544. At the time of the Census of April, 1946, the total population was 61,647 (27,901 males and 33,746 females). The numbers in the main racial groups were as follows :—

POPULATION GROUPS

		% of total
Black	45,042	73·07
Mixed or Coloured	12,631	20·49
White	1,906	3·09
East Indian	1,817	2·95
Carib	242	0·39
Syrian	7	0·01
Race not stated	2	—
Total	61,647	100·00

The geographical distribution of the population was as follows :—

	males	*females*
Kingstown (the capital) ..	2,070	2,763
Suburbs of Kingstown ..	4,398	5,535
Rural Areas	19,522	22,891
The Grenadines	1,931	2,548

The average density of population was 410 persons per square mile.

The age distribution of the population, according to the Census of 1946, was as follows :—

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

Age-Group	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Under 5 years ..	4,713	4,705	9,418
5–14 years ..	9,164	8,691	17,855
15–44 years ..	10,731	14,064	24,795
45–64 years ..	2,307	4,389	6,696
65 and over ..	983	1,893	2,876
Not stated ..	3	4	7
Total ..	27,901	33,746	61,647

The population at the previous census, which was held in April, 1931, was 47,961 (21,208 males and 26,753 females), so that there was an increase of 13,686, or 28·5 per cent. during this period, equivalent to an annual rate of 1·7 per cent. Birth, death, and infant mortality rates in recent years have been as follows :—

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Year	*Births per 1,000 of population*	*Deaths per 1,000 of population*	*Infant mortality per 1,000 births*
1946	38·4	15·4	98·5
1947	40·1	16·5	103·9
1948	38·1	14·9	111·3
1949	40·0	13·6	88·0
1950	39·8	15·3	109·3

Digitized by Google

Over the years 1946–49 the recorded excess of departures over arrivals was 2,036. It is probable, however, that there was also a fair amount of unrecorded migration; from 1931 to 1946 the recorded natural increase of population was 19,636, or 3,121 more than is accounted for by the increase shown in the censuses and the recorded excess of departures over arrivals, and it seems probable that this difference is mainly to be accounted for by unrecorded migration.

The number of gainfully occupied persons in the population, according to the Census of April, 1946, was as follows :—

OCCUPATIONS

	Males	*Females*	*Total*	%
All Industries	12,447	10,244	22,691	100·00
Agriculture	5,845	5,454	11,299	49·80
Quarrying	14	—	14	0·06
Fishing	460	1	461	2·03
Forestry	341	1	342	1·51
Manufacturing and Repairs ..	1,232	1,191	2,423	10·68
Construction	2,080	665	2,745	12·10
Transport and Communication	539	30	569	2·51
Commerce and Finance ..	653	719	1,372	6·05
Recreational Service	21	2	23	0·10
Professional Service	290	421	711	3·23
Public Service	524	55	579	2·55
Personal Service	41	189	230	1·01
Domestic Service	297	1,505	1,802	7·94
Industries not specified ..	110	11	121	0·53

Social Amenities

Education

Facilities for primary education are provided for all children from five to 15 years of age. In 1950 there were 39 primary schools (17 Government, 11 Methodist, nine Church of England, two Roman Catholic). All schools are co-educational, and except for a recently-established Government fee-paying combined Infant-Junior school, education is free, the cost being met by the Government. School attendance is not, however, compulsory and the primary schools have an enrolment of approximately 70 per cent. of the estimated school age population. The average attendance is between 8,000 and 9,000 for all sessions.

There are two Government Secondary Schools—the Boys' Grammar School and the Girls' High School—at which enrolment is about 460 in all, the number of boys and girls being approximately equal. In both schools the average percentage of free places, most of which are provided by Government, is 14. The minimum age of admission is generally 11 years, but may be 10 in special cases. Both schools provide education up to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination.

There are no training colleges or schools for higher education. A University Scholarship open to boys and girls is awarded triennially on the result of the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination. In 1948 three students were studying Medicine, one in Canada and two in the United Kingdom. A Scholarship tenable at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad is also awarded triennially. A candidate from St. Vincent is eligible for selection for the Windward Islands Agricultural Scholarship tenable at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. At the end of 1948 there were two students from St. Vincent taking the Diploma Course of the College. In 1949 a fund was established to provide scholarships at the University College of the West Indies.

There are no technical schools. Opportunities are offered to a limited number of boys for training in agriculture at the Department of Agriculture (Camden Park Experiment Station) and in carpentry and in mechanical work at the Public Works Department, and there is also an apprenticeship course in surveying for one person at the Lands and Surveys branch of the Public Works Department. A travelling teacher gives instruction in handicraft to young women.

The curricula of the secondary schools include woodwork for boys and housecraft for girls. Classes in commercial subjects have been started for pupils attending these schools. In September, 1948, a Manual Training Centre was established at the Georgetown Government School, where there are classes in woodwork, basketry and bookcraft.

According to the 1946 census, 81 per cent. of the adult population is literate. In 1949 there were five adult education classes under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies.

Health

The most prevalent diseases are influenza, whooping cough, enteric fever, yaws, venereal diseases, and tuberculosis. Malaria is not widespread, and except for the draining and oiling of swamps there is no organised anti-malarial campaign. Clinics have been set up for the treatment of venereal disease and of yaws, which is the ailment most frequently found.

There is a general hospital at Kingstown, accommodating 120 patients, and three rural cottage hospitals with six beds each, at Georgetown, Chateaubelais, and Bequia. There are also a mental hospital, a pauper asylum, and a leper asylum, and some 20 rural dispensaries attended weekly by medical officers.

Housing

Peasant houses are usually light structures of one storey built on pillars of wood, stone or brick. The commonest type has two rooms of equal size side by side, and as the size of the family increases and financial circumstances permit enclosed verandah-like extensions are added to the front or back, to provide one to four additional rooms of 48–60 sq. ft. each. Kitchens are generally in structures separate from the house, and are often built of inferior and dilapidated materials. In a survey of 10,654 houses carried out in 1940 only 280 bathrooms were recorded, and these were mostly in larger non-peasant houses. Of the total number of houses included in the survey 73 per cent. consisted of two rooms, 25·3 per cent. of three or more rooms and 1·7 per cent. of one room.*

The Central Housing and Planning Authority, which was established in 1946, has powers to acquire land, which it subdivides into building plots, providing water supply and other services, roads, etc., where necessary; these plots are then sold to prospective home builders at one cent per sq. ft. The purchaser usually erects his own house, though the Authority makes advances of building materials—e.g., local timber and roofing materials. A period of two to three years is allowed for repayment of advances. No building is done either by local authorities or by the Authority itself. Most of its activities have been in rural areas, but it has one urban scheme, at Montrose, near Kingstown, where an estate was developed and subdivided into building plots, which were allocated on

* The report of this survey is published in the volume "A Plan of Development for St. Vincent, 1947," pp. 484ff.

Digitized by Google

payment of a small deposit, the balance being paid in four equal yearly instalments. The amount which the Authority has been able to advance has been limited by lack of initial capital and by the necessity to wait for the recovery of a substantial part of the amounts already advanced. By September, 1950, 59 houses had been built and occupied on the Montrose Estate, and on other sites (including the new Sandy Bay Village) approximately 200 houses had been completed or were under construction. A slum clearance scheme involving 217 families is being undertaken at Mt. Bentinck. An initial grant of £2,000 towards the cost of this scheme has been made from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Under regulations issued in 1946 for rural areas, and in 1947 for Kingstown, official approval is necessary for all new building plans, and minimum sizes are prescribed for building plots and living rooms. Various requirements are also laid down regarding constructional standards and sanitary arrangements.

In the country districts it is usual for peasants to own their own houses, but where they are rented, working class rents are from 5s. to 12s. 6d. per month. In the towns houses are usually rented; rents for working class tenants are from 15s. to 25s. per month, and for middle class tenants from £2 10s. 0d. to £5 per month.

Social Security

There is no system of unemployment insurance or of old age pensions. Public assistance is given to both young and old persons, who are in dire need; at the end of 1948 there were 1,279 persons (754 adults and 525 children) receiving outdoor relief. The amount of relief is from 4s. to 30s. per month. All applications for Poor Relief are submitted to a central body called the Public Assistance Board, of which the Social Welfare Officer is Chairman and the Public Assistance Officer is Secretary. Police Constables act as District Relieving Officers. All cases in outlying districts are investigated by them and recommendations made to the Central Body. The Public Assistance Officer investigates cases himself in the Kingstown area. Institutional relief is administered by the Medical Department.

In 1948 there were 19 registered Friendly Societies and some 11 unregistered Societies. Registration is not compulsory. There are also a number of thrift clubs, organised by the Social Welfare Department, in different parts of the island.

Political Structure

The Legislative Authority of St. Vincent consists of the Governor and Legislative Council. The Legislative Council consists of the Governor, three *ex-officio* members (the Administrator, Crown Attorney, and Treasurer), three nominated members, and eight elected members. Adult suffrage was instituted in 1951.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor, the Administrator, the Crown Attorney and the Treasurer as *ex-officio* members, one official member appointed by the Governor, one member nominated by the Governor from the members of the Legislative Council, and three members elected by the Legislative Council from among their number.

The principal departments of the administration are: Education, Medical, Police, Prisons, Agriculture, Judicial, Postal, Electricity and Telephones, Labour, Public Works, Treasury and Customs, Supplies; the four last-mentioned deal particularly with economic affairs.

The municipal affairs of Kingstown, the capital of the Colony, are under the control of the Kingstown Board, which was established in 1897. Until 1947 the Board consisted of four elected and four nominated members but since then all the members have been elected. Their period of office is two years; they are eligible for re-election.

The other towns in St. Vincent—Georgetown, Calliaqua, Layou, Barrouallie, Chateaubelair and Port Elizabeth in Bequia—have had a form of local government since 1879, as the Governor each year appointed Wardens with powers similar to those of the Kingstown Board; they were responsible for administration and had authority to impose taxes. In September, 1948, however, Town Boards were established in each of the six small towns. These Boards consist of six persons, four of whom are elected and two nominated by the Governor.

In 1948 also, Village Councils were set up with powers to manage the administrative and financial affairs of the villages, in order to promote the social, cultural and economic welfare of the inhabitants. These Councils consist of six members, of whom not more than two are nominated.

The funds of the Kingstown Board and small towns Boards are obtained from the following sources: House and land rates, traders' stock rate, water rate, market and loans, and grants from the Central government. The Boards provide the following services: streets, lighting, water, cemeteries, playgrounds, libraries, etc.

Village councils are not rating authorities, but obtain their funds from the following sources: licences, fines for breaches of by-laws, the sale, hire or mortgage of properties vested in the council, loans, grants from the central government, and miscellaneous sources.

Principal Economic Legislation

General

The company legislation of the colony, which was enacted in 1874, was modelled on the United Kingdom legislation of that time and has not been brought into line with the changes which have subsequently taken place. The general opinion is that it is now inadequate.

Under the Aliens Bank Ordinance no alien may carry on the business of banking in the Colony without a licence from the Governor.

The laws relating to Partnership, Sale of Goods, Bills of Exchange, and Merchandise Marks follow the United Kingdom pattern.

The Stamp Ordinance provides for the imposition of duties on agreements, bonds, bills of exchange, insurance policies, receipts and other documents which are normally stamped in business practice.

Trade Tariffs

Import duties, mostly on an *ad valorem* basis, but there are a number of items on which specific duties are levied. Except in a few instances the *ad valorem* rate under the British Preferential Tariff is 12½ per cent. and under the General Tariff 18¾ per cent. The rates on some of the principal imports in 1949 were as follows:—

IMPORT DUTIES

	British Preferential	*General*
Flour, wheaten	5s. 0d. per 196 lb.	7s. 6d. per 196 lb.
Dried fish	1s. 3d. per 100 lb.	3s. 4d. per 100 lb.
Rice	1s. 3d. per 100 lb.	3s. 0d. per 100 lb.
Sugar: refined	6s. 6d. per 100 lb.	9s. 9d. per 100 lb.
unrefined	2s. 1d. per 100 lb.	6s. 3d. per 100 lb.
Condensed milk	4s. 2d. per 100 lb.	8s. 4d. per 100 lb.
Beef and Pork:		
pickled or salted	6s. 0d. per 100 lb.	9s. 0d. per 100 lb.
fresh	12½% *ad valorem*	22½% *ad valorem*
Butter	10s.5d. per 100 lb.	25s. per 100 lb.
Butter substitutes	4s. 2d. per 100 lb.	6s. 3d. per 100 lb.
Hosiery	12½%	12½% + 7d.–9d. per pair
Cotton piece goods:		
under 1s. per yd.	10%	15%
over 1s. per yd.	12½%	18¾%
Machinery:		
agricultural	5%	10%
other	10%	15%
Hardware	12½%	22½%
Motor cars and trucks	7½% – 10%	35%
Petrol	10½d. per gallon	1s. 6d. per gallon
Kerosene	3d. per gallon	3d. per gallon
Tobacco:		
manufactured	10s. 5d. per lb.	15s. 8d. per lb.
unmanufactured black leaf	2s. 0d. per lb.	2s. 0d. per lb.

Digitized by Google

A surtax of 10 per cent. was introduced in 1943, and is still in force, on the duties imposed on all items in the Customs tariff except boots, flour, fish, rice, milk and unmanufactured tobacco. On all other tobacco the surtax is 20 per cent.

Certain reliefs in respect of customs duties are granted under the Hotels Ordinance to persons importing goods for the construction of hotels in St. Vincent.

Export duties in 1949 were :—

(*a*) Cotton lint, arrowroot, starch, cocoa, copra,* coconuts,* coconut oil,* sugar, rum, peanuts, nutmegs, mace : 6 per cent. f.o.b.

* When prices exceed £35 per ton in the case of copra, 14s. per 100 nuts, 6s. per gallon oil, an additional sum of 20 per cent. of the excess is payable.

(*b*) Fruit and vegetables, corn and peas, hides and skins, cinnamon, ginger, eschallots, vanilla : 3 per cent. f.o.b.

(*c*) Stained Sea Island cotton, cotton seed : 2½ per cent. f.o.b.

(*d*) Syrup and molasses : 1 per cent. f.o.b.

(*e*) Livestock per head : horses and mules 20s., horned cattle 10s., asses 6s. 8d., pigs 4s., goats and sheep 1s. 4d., poultry 1d.

An excise duty is levied on locally manufactured spirits at the rate of 14s. 2d. per proof gallon. There are also trade duties of 21s. per proof gallon on locally-produced rum, and from 3s. to 6s. per proof gallon on imported spirits.

The Controller of Supplies has powers to control all imports and exports by licence, but since August, 1948, an Open General Licence has been issued for goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and the other colonies, except for a few commodities still in short supply. Normally no restrictions are placed on exports.

Labour

A Labour Department was set up by the Labour Ordinance of 1942, which gives general powers for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of work. Powers are also given for the setting up of labour exchanges, but these have not been made use of except temporarily during the war years.

The Colony's legislation on trade unions is similar to that in other parts of the West Indies. Trade unions must be registered, and an account of their financial position must be sent annually to the registrar. Peaceful picketing is allowed, but not intimidation ; there are no provisions making certain categories of strikes illegal, or restricting the use of trade union funds for political purposes. In 1949 there were three trade unions registered, but only one of these, the St. Vincent General Workers' Union, was functioning ; it had 1,161 members.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance of 1939 provides for payments by employers in case of death or injuries at work, other than those caused by wilful misconduct or disregard of safety precautions, to employees other than casual workers, out-workers, members of the employer's family, domestic and clerical workers, or non-manual employees earning over £200 per annum. As from 1949, payments in case of death have been 36 months' wages or £300, whichever is less, and in case of total disablement 48 months' wages or £400, whichever is less ; for adult employees with dependants, in the case of partial disablement the amounts payable are correspondingly reduced. For temporary disablements, two-thirds of monthly wages are payable in the case of adults.

Under an Ordinance passed in 1940, the Governor is empowered to take steps to promote the settlement of trade disputes, and he can refer a dispute to an Arbitration Tribunal, with the consent of both parties, though existing arrangements for conciliation or arbitration must be used first. When a trade dispute exists or is apprehended the Governor can appoint a Board of Inquiry, to which its causes and circumstances may be referred for investigation and report.

The employment of children under 14 is prohibited, except in light agricultural or horticultural work outside school hours, or in industrial undertakings or on board ships in which only members of the same family are employed. Similarly, the employment at night in industry of young persons from 14 to 16 years of age is prohibited ; young persons from 16 to 18 years of age may only be employed at night in continuous processes such as the production of glass, paper, raw sugar, and women may only be employed at night in processes involving the use of raw materials which are subject to deterioration. These restrictions in no case apply where only members of the family are employed. "Night" is defined as covering 11 consecutive hours, including the period from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The payment of wages in kind is prohibited, and payments must be made at least fortnightly.

Land Tenure

The Crown possesses a large area of land, estimated at 36,000 to 40,000 acres, or approximately 45 per cent. of the total area of the island, in the hinterland. This land is under the control of the Superintendent of Agriculture as Chief Forest Officer, and is mainly kept as a forest reserve, although certain portions are let out on yearly tenancies to workers at a low rental, e.g., from 8s. to 12s. 6d. an acre, for the cultivation of food crops. Except on Crown Lands which are rented, there must be no cultivation, fires, entry of livestock, or removal or cutting of timber unless a licence has been granted. The Crown Land Forest Produce Rules permit timber to be cut in Crown Forests under a licence issued by the Chief Forest Officer.

The Forests Ordinance of 1945 provides for the protection of forests and gives the Governor in Council the power provisionally to declare any Crown Lands to be a Forest Reserve, in which no land may be granted or sold. The Governor in Council may also declare any Crown Land a prohibited area, into which no entry is allowed. The owners of private forests can request that they shall be supervised or managed by the Chief Forest Officer, and with the owner's agreement the Governor in Council may apply some or all of the provisions of the Ordinance to such forests.

The Crown Lands Regulations regulate the yearly leasing of Crown Lands for cultivation. Conditions are inserted in Agreements to ensure that the land is worked in a husbandlike manner and that soil conservation methods are observed, and the tenant undertakes to carry out such instructions with regard to the crops to be grown, methods of cultivation and the area to be cultivated as may from time to time be given to him by the Chief Forest Officer or other authorised members of the Department of Agriculture. Agreements also contain provisions entitling the tenant to compensation, if his tenancy should be terminated, for certain prescribed classes of improvements which he may have made during his tenancy, and for which the initial consent of the Chief Forest Officer is required.

The freehold system is in operation in the Colony, and where leases obtain they are generally of moderate length ; long leases for periods of 50 or 99 years are almost unknown, but there are a certain number of leases for shorter terms of five to 20 years.

The State has no special or general rights over any land other than Crown Land. By the Land Acquisition Ordinance of 1946, however, the State may, on payment of compensation as laid down in the Ordinance, acquire any land which the Governor in Council considers may be needed for a public purpose.

Immigration

The Immigration (Restriction) Ordinance of 1939 prohibits the entry into the Colony of any persons who are likely to be a public charge, also idiots, epileptics, and mental defectives (unless the person accompanying such immigrants gives security to the satisfaction of the Immigration Officer), persons suffering from contagious diseases, prostitutes, political undesirables, and any person or class of persons deemed by the Governor in

Digitized by Google

Council on economic grounds or on account of standard or habits of life to be undesirable immigrants. There are certain rights of appeal against restriction of entry, and the Governor may grant a permit to a prohibited immigrant to enter and remain in the Colony subject to certain conditions.

Transport and Communications

There are cable, wireless and telephone connections linking the island with other Caribbean Territories, the United States of America, and Europe. The Government of St. Vincent maintains a telephone system linking Kingstown with the various small towns and rural areas. A survey of telephone requirements is to be carried out to ascertain the extent and cost of the improvements and developments required to provide a modern and efficient system of telecommunications.

There is no broadcasting station, and the cost of setting up such a station is regarded as too high to be justified at present.

A fortnightly passenger air service is carried on by British Guiana Airways, in contract with the Government of St. Vincent, between British Guiana, Trinidad and St. Vincent, with occasional charter flights to and from Dominica, St. Lucia and Barbados.

There is only one airfield in the island ; it is situated at Diamond, seven miles from the capital. The runway is turfed, but its effective length is only 2,500 feet, and it can only accommodate small (seven-passenger) aircraft. There are no facilities for the servicing of aircraft and no arrangements for night landings.

The Canadian National Steamships line, which runs a fortnightly passenger, mail and cargo service through the Antilles from Canada—also calling at Boston—to British Guiana, calls at St. Vincent. This line also operates a fleet of cargo steamers, which make irregular but frequent calls, and which carry accommodation for a limited number of passengers. Other lines, principally Alcoa and Harrison's, also run an irregular cargo and mail service, when freight offers.

There is a privately-operated local passenger, mail, and cargo motor launch service which runs daily up and down the sheltered leeward coast of the island. A weekly motor launch service is also carried on between the main island and the cays of the Grenadines as far south as Carriacou. These services are subsidised by Government.

The only harbour of importance is at Kingstown.

The local shipping industry is relatively large and, especially during the war years, has played a considerable part in the economy of these islands. Ocean-going schooners are built in Bequia and in Union Island (in the St. Vincent Grenadines) and in St. Vincent. Many of these sailing vessels have been equipped with auxiliary engines and trade all the year round among the islands of the Caribbean archipelago, carrying manufactured goods, off-loaded by steamers from Europe at Barbados or Trinidad, to the islands lying off the main steamer lanes ; gasolene and other petroleum products from the Shell plants in Trinidad to British Guiana and all the islands ; vegetables, pigs, beef-cattle, poultry and eggs, produced locally, from St. Vincent to markets in Trinidad and Barbados, and salt from Bonaire and Anguilla to Grenada.

The island has 395 miles of roads, of which 38 miles are asphalted, 41 miles metalled, and 316 miles earthed. The oiled and metalled roads are usable all the year round by motor traffic. A main highway runs close to the coast from the town of Georgetown on the East Coast, through Kingstown in the South, to Chateaubelair on the West Coast. The total length of this highway is 50 miles, of which 30 are asphalted. There is a road running in continuation of this highway in the windward district to a point 14 miles north of Georgetown, and another continuation on the leeward coast to a point at Richmond, two miles north of Chateaubelair. Between these extremities there is a gap of about 10 miles in the rugged north-western part of the island, in the shadow of the volcano, Soufriere, where difficult and dangerous Carib trails are the only overland communication routes.

There are also lateral roads running down the valleys from the hinterland, which join the main highway at the coast, but there is no cross-country road. The most important of these feeder roads, which carry much agricultural produce, is the Vigie road which traverses the Mesopotamia district ; it is 11 miles long and is gradually being asphalted throughout its length. A considerable portion of the food shipped to Trinidad comes from the Mesopotamia district of St. Vincent.

During the years 1946 to 1949 about five miles of roadway have been reconstructed and asphalted in the Kingstown suburban area, and this work has been accompanied by considerable development in suburban housing.

There are plans for future road development, especially between Kingstown and Barrouallie, at the southern exit of the recently purchased Leeward Land Settlement area on the west coast.

There are no railways in the island and no organised major transportation system in any form. Passenger transport is provided by various independently-operated motor buses which ply daily between the capital and the outlying districts at fares which average about 2d. per mile.

The large plantations usually own motor-lorries, and peasant growers hire trucks for conveying produce from their lands to the capital. The cost of transport is high in mountainous country and bears heavily on the grower. Animal-drawn transport is still widely used on the plantations, where pen manure is always needed, but the donkey cart, the mule van and the ox wagon have practically vanished from the roads, though they reappeared during the war years when motor lorries, tyres and tubes were unobtainable.

II. PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Conditions and Methods

While precise figures are not available, it appears that just over one-half of the area of the island of St. Vincent has been alienated and just under one-half is Crown Land. Approximately three-quarters of the alienated acreage is cultivable, but Crown Lands are mostly of a type unsuited to agriculture, and of 38,000–40,000 acres of Crown Lands probably not more than 3,000 acres are intermittently cultivated by renters. Fifty years ago all agricultural land belonged to large estates, but many of these have gradually been broken up and distributed among small-holders through government purchase and by sub-division by private owners.

According to the 1946 Agricultural Census, the total area of land in the colony in farms of more than one acre was 49,372 acres, of which 19,354 acres were cultivated and a further 11,196 acres cultivable ; included in the farms were 6,635 acres of pasture and 8,489 acres of woodland. Of these 49,372 acres, 34,626 acres were owned by their operators, 3,895 acres were rented, and 10,851 acres were managed. Agricultural conditions on the island of St. Vincent and on the Grenadines are not greatly dissimilar.

The numbers of farms of various sizes, and the areas of land occupied by them, were as follows :—

SIZES OF FARMS

	1–5 acres	5–10 acres	10–50 acres	50–100 acres	100–500 acres	500–1,000 acres	Over 1,000 acres	Not Stated
Number of farms	3,271	827	403	33	25	9	10	1
Area (acres) ..	6,924	5,255	6,641	2,148	6,154	5,503	16,777	—
% of total area	14·0	10·6	13·4	4·4	12·5	11·1	34·0	—

Digitized by Google

As well there were 4,151 small plots of less than one acre, but there is no estimate of the total area of these plots. Including small plots, the total number of farms in the colony was 8,730, and in the island of St. Vincent 8,172, of which 7,500 are on alienated land.

The agricultural land in the colony amounts altogether to approximately 40 per cent. of the total area. The following is an estimate of the acreage under different crops in 1949 :—

CROP ACREAGES

	acres
Coconuts	5,000
Arrowroot	3,800
Sea Island Cotton	3,278
Cassava	3,000
Sugar Cane	865
Groundnuts	800
Cacao	180
Fruit Trees and Ground Provisions	1,000
Other Food Crops (including sweet potatoes, yams, etc.)	13,500
Intermittent peasant cultivation ..	10,400

Under the Land Settlement and Development Ordinance of 1945, a Land Settlement and Development Board was set up, consisting of eight members, of whom three are officials, including the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, and the remainder are appointed by the Governor. The Board has powers to acquire and hold property, and to control and develop lands in the interests of the community. Its funds are under Government supervision, and are provided by Colonial Development and Welfare grants, loans, or from the colony budget. It can acquire land compulsorily or by agreement, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council.

In 1946 the Board acquired a group of estates in the Leeward and North Leeward districts, with a total area of about 4,000 acres, of which only about 500 acres was cultivated. Managers have been appointed to run the estates, and a variety of crops are being grown ; in addition, in 1948 and 1949 areas amounting to 420 acres were rented, on a leasehold basis, to workers for the cultivation of food crops. The operation of the estates was profitable in both these years, and a bonus from profits was paid to the workers. A livestock breeding centre has also been established. In 1949 the Board commenced the development of an estate of 1,700 acres on the island of Canouan in the Grenadines. By the end of the year a successful start had been made, and about 100 acres allocated to workers for food gardens.

As a result of the steep slopes and friable soil which prevail throughout the island, erosion is a severe problem. The Department of Agriculture, through its extension services staff, has done much to check erosion on both estates and small holdings by means of soil conservation measures in the form of contour grass barriers and diversion ditches. Some work has also been attempted on checking gully erosion, particularly in the " German Gutter " at Troumaca.

There were only four tractors in use for agricultural purposes in 1949, but many estates make use of animal drawn ploughs and harrows. Very little if any use is made of irrigation, though a small project is in operation on the Leeward Land Settlement Estates. Fertilizers are used extensively on large estates in the growing of arrowroot, Sea Island cotton and sugar cane, but smallholders do not take readily to this practice. Sulphate of ammonia is the fertilizer mainly used ; it gives good results with almost all crops.

Cash Crops

Arrowroot, Sea Island cotton and groundnuts are the principal crops grown, and they compete with one another for land suitable for all of them according to the fluctuations in prices.

Arrowroot

All arrowroot starch produced in the Colony is graded and marketed through the St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association in Kingstown. This Association has been in existence some 19 years and is one of the most successful co-operative marketing enterprises in the West Indies. Exports of arrowroot starch are about 40 per cent. of total exports, and St. Vincent arrowroot enjoys a virtual monopoly in world markets. Production of arrowroot now averages about eight million lb. a year.

Arrowroot is a difficult crop to eradicate, and once planted it usually occupies the land for anything from five to 15 years. The average yield per acre for the Colony is about 10 barrels (of 224 lb. each) of starch, though many estates through good husbandry and judicious use of fertilizers average between 12 and 13 barrels per acre. Of the total output of starch, peasant production accounts for about 13 per cent., though the crop acreage is about equal on peasant holdings and estates, but the figure for peasant production does not include the proportion of the crop which is retained by factories in payment for the processing of rhizomes ; moreover, the lands available to the peasants are relatively poor, they have difficulty in obtaining adequate credit facilities for the purchase of fertilizers and other essentials, and many of them are ignorant of mixed farming practices.

The milling of the crop is carried out on the estates in small factories, of which there were 51 at the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946. Many of these factories are old-fashioned and inefficient, and the Co-operative Association has under consideration the setting up of a number of modern central factories as a means of increasing production.

Sea Island Cotton

The world's finest variety of Sea Island cotton lint is produced in St. Vincent ; the strain at present grown is the V.135, which is over two inches in staple length, and is extremely fine and of fair strength. Since 1948 this cotton has also been grown in the Grenadine Islands, in place of the perennial Marie Galante variety. All cotton is ginned at the Government-operated central cotton ginnery, which has been in existence for 40 years ; refined cotton seed oil and cotton-meal are produced as by-products, and are mainly consumed locally. During and since the war all cotton lint produced has been sold to the United Kingdom Raw Cotton Commission, which offers a guaranteed price in advance of the crop. Prices have risen in recent years, and in 1949 reached 4s. per lb. for fresh white lint. The prospects of increased production appear to depend largely on the prices offered.

Acreages and yields in recent years are shown in the following table. Yield per acre may be affected by a variety of conditions, e.g., weather, pests, etc.

SEA ISLAND COTTON

Crop Year	*Acreage*	*Yield of lint* (bales of 400 lb.)	*Yield per acre* (lb.)
1938–39	5,385	1,361	101
1939–40	5,486	1,649	121
1940–41	5,180	1,527	118
1941–42	4,827	1,468	122
1942–43	3,534	907	103
1943–44	2,473	793	128
1944–45	2,312	668	116
1945–46	3,140	890	113
1946–47	1,598	548	137
1947–48	1,865	725	161
1948–49	3,278	855	104
1949–50	3,311	1,097	133

As a rule one-third to one-half of the acreage grown is on estates, the remainder on peasant holdings.

Digitized by Google

The chief pests of cotton in St. Vincent are the Cotton Stainer (*Dysdercus delaunyei*), Pink Boll Worm (*Platyedra gossyfiella*), and the Cotton Leaf Roller (*Alabama argillacea*). The first two are controlled by the rigid enforcement of a 3½ month's close season, and the latter by spraying with colloidal lead arsenate.

Coconuts

The annual production of coconuts has been about 10 million in recent years; about 90 per cent. of production is on estates. Exports are mainly in the form of copra, most of which goes to Barbados to be manufactured into edible oils and soap, but 472 tons in 1948, and 702 tons in 1949, were processed at the Central Cotton Ginnery for use in the manufacture of refined oil, soap, stock feed and manure.

Groundnuts

Groundnut production has developed considerably in recent years, and has competed for land with both arrowroot and sea island cotton. Total production was estimated at 800,000 lb. in 1948 and exports were approximately 500,000 lb. in both 1948 and 1949. Output is about equally divided between estates and peasant holdings.

Cassava

Cassava production has also shown a rising tendency in recent years; the output of starch was approximately 800,000 lb. in 1949, of which about 45 per cent. was produced on estates. About 80 per cent. of production is exported, and about five per cent. is used for the production of the local food known as "farine". There were 58 cassava mills at the time of the Agricultural Census of 1946.

Sugar

Sugar cane is grown almost entirely on estates. There is one sugar factory in the island, the Mount Bentinck factory; the production of dark crystals was 2,352 tons in 1947–48, 2,084 tons in 1948–49, and 2,758 tons in 1949–50, as compared with 1,525 tons in 1938–39. Most of the sugar is locally consumed, but 400 tons were exported in 1947–48 and 250 tons in 1948–49; 65,380 proof gallons of rum were produced at the Mount Bentinck distillery in 1949.

Peasant production has been encouraged by advances from the factory of $10 per acre planted, and also by the supply of fertiliser at cost price.

Other Crops

There are small exports of cocoa, the production of which takes place on both estates and peasant holdings, and of bananas, which are mainly grown on peasant holdings. Nutmegs and mace are grown on both estates and peasant holdings, and are exported.

The values and amounts of the principal agricultural exports are shown in the following table :—

Local Food Products

The principal food crops grown are sweet potatoes, yams, tannias, dasheens, eddoes, pigeon peas and maize. Maize is usually grown interplanted with cotton and spaced at wide intervals. Pigeon peas and maize are the chief food crops of the people in the Grenadines. While it is difficult to give a precise estimate of the amount of food crops, since nearly the whole supply is grown on peasant holdings, it is believed that the annual output of the more important crops is approximately as follows :—

Sweet potatoes	9,500,000 lb.
Tannias, dasheens, eddoes ..	750,000 lb.
Yams	500,000 lb.

There is a considerable export trade in sweet potatoes, approximately 3,350,000 lb. of which were sent to other parts of the West Indies in 1948.

Animal husbandry is still somewhat primitive and backward in St. Vincent. Working herds, consisting of high grade Zebus, are found on most of the large estates, but these receive but little care and attention and are turned out to graze on fallowed fields and through mature coconut groves. Only in a few cases do these animals receive any cut fodder and/or concentrates. Pure-bred Zebu bulls have been imported from Trinidad from time to time to maintain these working herds. Peasant livestock are on the whole in very much better condition, and more use is being made by the peasants of the stud animals stationed at the District Livestock Improvement Centres by the Department of Agriculture. St. Vincent is a considerable exporter of goats, sheep and pigs on the hoof, and poultry, mainly to Trinidad. Cattle are not at present exported from the Colony, but it is hoped to foster the rearing of beef animals on the large estates in the near future with a view to opening up an export trade with Barbados and Trinidad. Several estates are now constructing covered cattle pens for the purpose of making large quantities of pen manure. These animals are stall fed, principally on young cut elephant and Guatemala grass, together with Gliricidia loppings which are relatively high in protein content. The average daily yield of milk from cows is only about six pints per head, mainly as a result of inefficient systems of rearing and feeding. A model dairy is being operated at the Camden Park Experiment Station with a view to demonstrating proper systems of calf-rearing and the care, feeding and management of dairy animals. Supplies of coconut meal and undecorticated cottonseed meal are also made available for sale to owners of dairy animals—cows and goats—and also pigs. However, many planters are in the habit of utilising large quantities of both cottonseed meal and coconut meal as manure applied direct to the land, and as a result there is not a sufficient quantity of either of these to meet the demand for livestock feed.

The numbers of livestock recorded in the Agricultural Census of 1946 were approximately : cattle 7,700, sheep 3,700, goats 11,000, pigs 9,000, horses 154, mules 99, asses 2,000, fowls 46,000.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

	Arrowroot		*Sea Island Cotton Lint*		*Copra*		*Groundnuts*		*Cassava*		*Sweet Potatoes*	
	000 lb.	£000	000 lb.	£000	000 lb.	£000	000 lb.	£000	000 lb.	£000	000 bags	£000
1938	8,179	91·6	688	60·2	1,665	8·3	0·2	·002	475	3·1	6	2·0
1939	11,763	131·7	551	47·8	1,800	8·1	0·2	·002	527	4·7	11	5·4
1940	9,211	110·3	615	66·7	1,420	5·3	13	0·1	692	5·4	16	5·9
1941	11,224	142·9	615	61·5	757	3·2	17	0·3	790	4·8	20	8·9
1942	7,868	109·3	551	57·1	1,443	11·8	26	0·7	389	3·5	27	12·7
1943	7,613	96·7	405	42·3	2,415	29·1	169	3·8	679	9·5	24	12·9
1944	6,727	78·5	317	34·5	3,033	37·6	280	8·7	649	9·3	21	9·7
1945	5,139	60·8	272	23·8	2,810	46·5	406	9·5	650	9·4	24	12·7
1946	6,323	75·7	353	42·2	3,067	47·9	285	8·4	496	9·3	24	12·6
1947	6,667	86·2	214	25·8	2,655	45·5	499	17·4	565	9·0	25	18·4
1948	6,360	163·7	259	44·5	3,317	62·9	498	20·7	663	12·0	19	21·4
1949	7,581	187·1	339	67·6	2,984	89·5	470	19·6	681	11·2	15	16·4
1950	6,340	196·8	389	79·9	3,001	62·2	381	15·8	421	7·3	25	27·5

Digitized by Google

The ratio of cattle to human population still remains low, especially as less than half of the cattle are dairy cows. These have to supply the milk requirements of 64,000 people. The Government is at present inquiring into the livestock industry with a view to providing incentives to increased production of milk and meat both for local consumption and export. The District Livestock Improvement Centres established by the Department of Agriculture have already done much in providing improved types of animals, and attention is also being given to feeding. Livestock diseases are relatively rare in St. Vincent.

Forestry

The Crown Lands, the area of which is 38,000–40,000 acres, are situated in the interior ; most of them are under secondary woody vegetation (which can seldom be classed as forest) on which landslides are common, and about 15,000 acres are steep precipitous highland, over the 1,000 feet level. Hardly any of the Crown lands carry virgin forest. There is also a 55-acre reserve at Kingshill containing poor forest, and a large part of Union Island is covered with poor dry woodland owned by the Crown. It is estimated that some 2,860 acres of woodland and scrub and 2,870 acres of rain forests are in private hands. In the southern part of the island the mountains are covered mostly with secondary palm brake. Permanent cultivation goes up to about 1,200 feet, and above this is a zone of peasant gardens which have been cleared from the forest on Crown land and are occupied by renters ; some of these gardens have been abandoned. Higher up is the only primary forest in St. Vincent, but it covers a relatively small area—probably not more than 2,000 acres. According to the 1946 Agricultural Census, the total area of woodland in the Colony is 8,489 acres.

There are about 300 renters engaged in the cultivation of hillside lands which should be used for forestry, and because of the shortage of land and the pressure of population it is difficult to find alternative accommodation for them, though at present they are trying to get a bare subsistence from land the fertility of which is being lowered. It is desirable that all cultivators should be permanently settled on suitable land, and the tendency to intermittent shifting cultivation means that adequate protection of forests is much required. In 1949 the Crown lands around Soufriere, Mount Royal (Canouan), Mesopotamia and Colonarie were declared provisional forest reserves by an Order in Council under the Forest Ordinance of 1945. The last two were also declared prohibited areas in view of their importance as catchments for water supply and hydro-electric schemes. There has been increased supervision of forest areas in recent years ; the demarcation of already surveyed boundaries is being carried out, and it is intended to proceed with a complete survey of forest reserves.

Practically no timber is being obtained from Crown lands. The forests containing timber now consist of only about 3,000 acres of mountainous and quite inaccessible lands, and the remainder is poor secondary growth containing only scattered trees which it is desirable to retain as seed trees to provide for the natural regeneration of these deforested lands, which may in course of time provide marketable timber, for which there is a large local demand at present almost entirely met by imports.

The main species of trees in the various types of forest are as follows :—

Primary rain forest—gommier, mountain cabbage, jumbie bead, bullet.

Secondary palm brake—palm, palmiste (75 per cent. of total).

Secondary soufriere—gunstock, Spanish ash, bois flot, mahoe ; thin crowded trees with no timber value.

Secondary timber forest—waterwood, bullet, mahoe, etc., which have succeeded gommier forest. These may have considerable timber value if they are large enough.

Kingshill Reserve—turpentine, locust, white cedar, mahogany, Spanish ash.

Union Island—extensive areas of mangrove.

Fisheries

There is a fair amount of local fishing, especially in the Grenadines ; at the time of the 1946 census there were 460 whole-time and 525 part-time fishermen. Fish are consumed locally : in the Grenadines some of the catch is salted and sun-dried and there is an export trade to Grenada. The amount of fish caught annually in recent years is estimated as follows :—

Up to 1946	..	850,000 lb.
1947	..	800,000 lb.
1948	..	373,871 lb.
1949	..	536,015 lb.

At the time of the 1946 census there were 559 fishing boats ; except for two decked sailing boats, all these were open boats, or dugout canoes. Before the war a whale fishery was operated from the island of Bequia, by four 25-foot open boats, each manned by six men, but no whales have been caught since 1939, except for one in 1948. There is, however, a small fishery for blackfish (pilot whale), a small species of whale, which is carried on from Barrouallie on the leeward coast ; these fish are caught by harpoons from 22-foot open boats, each manned by six men. The meat is dried in the sun and is readily sold, and each fish produces from seven to 20 gallons of oil, which is exported, though some difficulty has been experienced in finding markets. The amounts of oil obtained in recent years have been as follows :—

1947	..	2,378 gallons
1948	..	2,657 gallons
1949	..	6,500 gallons

It is hoped to erect a pilot plant for the mechanical extraction of oil, thereby improving its quality.

Four fishermen's associations were formed in 1948, for thrift and co-operative purchasing.

Minerals

So far as is known there are no mineral deposits of any value in the Colony.

Manufactures

Local industries include the manufacture of rum, sugar, starch, laundry soap, cigarettes, ice and soda water, tailoring and dressmaking, and boat-building. There is no information available as to the value of the materials used in these industries or their total output, but the following statistics of the numbers of persons engaged in manufacture and repair are given in the 1946 census :—

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Sugar milling	65	7	72
Other food, drink, and ice	149	47	196
Bread, cakes, biscuits..	114	45	159
Sawmilling	12	—	12
Textiles, apparel	436	1,013	1,449
Tailoring, dressmaking	265	990	1,225
Metals, machinery, vehicles	255	—	255
Boats	142	—	142
All other manufactures ..	315	124	439
Total	1,232	1,191	2,323

Digitized by Google

Village Industries

A Handicraft Instructress who is attached to the Social Welfare Department teaches groups in various parts of the island to use local straw and fibre materials such as pandanus, sansiviera, khus-khus, banana and coconut, to make hats, bags, slippers, baskets, table mats, belts, etc., both for home use and for sale. The villagers also make bark-tanned leather, slaked lime and edible cassava products.

Other Economic Activities

Tourist Industry

Up to the present time St. Vincent has not been able to establish a substantial tourist trade, due chiefly to lack of communication with the outside world. It is hoped, however, that when both steamship and air services are improved tourists will be able to take advantage of the attractions offered by the island.

By arrangement with the Government the St. Vincent Chamber of Commerce has made itself responsible for developing the tourist industry, but nothing really effective can be done without the outlay of considerable capital on the construction of hotels and the improvement of the amenities of beach and mountain resorts. At present there are three hotels on the mainland, and one at Bequia in the Grenadines, which offer suitable accommodation to tourists. There are also a number of seaside bungalows which may be rented furnished.

Distributive Trade

There is in the colony no marked differentiation between wholesale and retail business, and a general trader may well be both a wholesaler and a retailer at the same time.

There is much room for improvement in local marketing methods, which except in the case of arrowroot and cotton are entirely unorganised. The Government is considering the establishment of a marketing organisation for both local sales and exports of ground provisions and livestock, but the necessary funds have not yet been made available.

Professions

The Census of April, 1946, recorded 612 persons (285 males and 327 females) as being engaged in professional services ; at the end of 1948, their number had increased to 637, divided into the following categories : medical practitioners 9, dentist 1, registered nurses 178, druggists 30, school teachers 400, draughtsmen builders 8, lawyers 11.

The majority of these persons are employed by the Government.

Co-operative Movement

There are a number of co-operative concerns in the Colony, of which the most important is the St. Vincent Co-operative Arrowroot Association which was formed in 1931. Its main object is to standardise the quality of this commodity in order to stabilise the market price and to promote orderly marketing to the benefit of the growers. The total amount paid to growers in respect of the 1947–48 crop, which yielded 30,834 barrels, was $675,366.

The St. Vincent Public Officers Credit Union, which was established in 1947, runs a shop supplying groceries to members at prices slightly above cost. A proportion of the profits is divided among the members, who numbered about 155 at the end of 1948.

Employment and Labour Supply

Local Employment

There is a more than adequate local supply of skilled and unskilled labour to meet the demands of the various industries and services, and numbers of workers migrate to other countries in search of employment. The wage-rates and hours of work prevailing during 1950 in the various industries and services were as follows :—

Agriculture. The prescribed minimum wage-rates for agricultural workers for men were 72 cents and 54 cents for women for a day of eight hours. The rates actually paid tended to be somewhat above these amounts.

In *manufacturing industries* rates ranged from $4–$9 a week for men and $3·60–$4·80 for women for a week of 48–60 hours ; in *building* $1·50–$3·00 for men for a day of eight hours ; in *road construction* 75–86 cents (men) and 60–72 cents (women) for a day of eight hours, and in *trade and commerce* $5–$10 (men) and $4–$8 (women) for a week of 42–48 hours.

Migrant Labour

During the years 1942–44 many workers were recruited for employment in the Dutch islands of Aruba and Curacao. The workers were engaged under contracts of two years' duration in the first instance, with the option of renewal at the expiration of that period. In subsequent years a number of workers have gone to these territories on their own initiative.

The remittances received from those islands in the years 1942 to 1947 were as follows :—

	£
1942	32,711
1943	145,701
1944	77,921
1945	72,950
1946	71,800
1947	81,783

Under the Recruiting of Workers Ordinance of 1940, licences are only granted to recruiters if the authorities are satisfied that adequate provision has been made for safeguarding the health and welfare of the workers, and they must be brought before a magistrate and be medically examined before leaving. Persons under 16 years of age cannot be recruited, and persons between 16 and 18 may only be recruited with the consent of their parents. The journey expenses of recruited workers and their families must be borne by the recruiter or employer.

Fuel and Power (Including Water)

There is no major source of fuel in the island. The primary forest has all been destroyed by scorching from volcanic eruptions and by uncontrolled cutting through three centuries, and the secondary growth is worthless as a source of fuel. A limited charcoal industry is carried on, but its production is quite inadequate for the needs of the population. Besides charcoal, the chief local fuel is firewood won from occasional thickets of soft tropical secondary timber and underbrush.

For industrial purposes fuel oil imported from Trinidad is principally used. A small quantity of coal is imported for use in blacksmith's forges and for firing bakery ovens.

The island is, however, well-watered, and in the past many streams have been used for driving cane and arrow-root waterwheels. This ancient method of obtaining driving power is not economical in the use of water, but only three mills have turned to the use of the turbine in place of the old waterwheel. There is a continuous supply of pure water in Kingstown, the capital, and certain villages also have piped supplies.

In 1946–47 plans were made for a hydro-electric generating station, with a capacity of 550 kW., on the Colonarie River about 14 miles from Kingstown, and plant was ordered and some preliminary work was done in 1948, but the scheme was then abandoned for the time being. In March, 1951, however, an arrangement was made by which the Colonial Development Corporation is to carry out the original scheme and is to be given an exclusive franchise for 55 years for the generation and distribution of electricity in the island. The Government will sell to the Corporation the Kingstown ice-making plant and cold store, which it is proposed to enlarge.

Digitized by Google

The capital required is estimated at £200,000, and the St. Vincent Government may participate up to the extent of £50,000, to be obtained by a loan. It is expected that the scheme will be in operation by 1952 or 1953. Current is to be supplied for domestic purposes and to processing factories, and it is estimated that total consumption should rise from 706,000 units in 1953 to 1,715,000 units in 1967. Provision will be made for increasing the generating capacity by 50 per cent. if this should be required.

The existing electricity generating plant in Kingstown is diesel-powered, with alternators of a total capacity of 265 kilowatts. In 1949 it supplied 1,236 consumers (nearly all domestic) in Kingstown and the immediate neighbourhood, containing a population of about 6,000.

III. FINANCE AND TRADE

Public Finance

Central Government

Total revenue and expenditure during the period from 1938 to 1950 are shown in the following table :—

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Year	*Local Revenue*	*Expenditure from local funds*	*Expenditure on Development and Welfare schemes*
	£	£	£
1938	101,588	96,083	679
1939	101,862	100,347	26
1940	115,904	106,371	3,416
1941	115,659	111,207	501
1942	115,715	125,420	12,100
1943	162,420	141,032	18,823
1944	183,899	166,522	18,516
1945	189,639	200,876	49,216
1946	217,694	224,066	105,158
1947	282,494	256,331	68,957
1948	263,315	233,124	39,701
	$1,263,912	$1,118,996	$190,564
1949	341,120	315,307	60,150
	$1,637,375	$1,513,472	$288,720
1950	296,353	354,791	45,207
	$1,421,494	$1,702,999	$216,992
1951 (revised estimate)	338,669	405,154	66,667
	$1,625,613	$1,944,740	$320,000

Individual items of revenue and expenditure during recent years have been as follows :—

REVENUE

	1948 (actual)	1949 (actual)	1950 (approved estimates)
	$	$	$
Import duties	417,694	450,289	430,000
Export duties	111,694	118,593	125,000
Excise duties	122,944	124,947	129,000
Income tax	177,733	212,407	188,000
Land and house tax	29,813	28,113	30,000
Other duties, taxes, and licences	105,553	115,118	106,099
Harbour dues	11,662	12,453	12,100
Fees of Court	99,578	97,552	121,194
Post Office	91,732	348,242	74,860
Electricity, Telephones, Refrigeration	71,529	93,310	96,549
Rent and Interest	14,529	15,624	17,362
Sales of Crown Lands	9,785	8,293	7,758
Miscellaneous	—	12,794	—
Total local revenue	1,263,912	1,637,375	1,337,922
Colonial Development and Welfare	206,382	189,289	353,496
Total Revenue	1,470,294	1,826,664	1,691,418

EXPENDITURE

	1948 (actual)	1949 (actual)	1950 (approved estimates)
	$	$	$
Governor	9,478	9,393	8,011
Legislature	4,608	5,808	5,860
Administration and Audit	44,527	46,801	50,328
Agriculture	42,666	83,485	59,481
Central Housing, Road and Water Authorities	73,855	8,000	117,440
Education	117,258	141,772	162,760
Electricity and Telephones	60,699	88,095	80,416
Judicial and Legal	26,385	28,299	28,486
Labour and Social Welfare	8,973	30,405	8,426
Lands and Survey	9,424	10,085	12,716
Medical	176,233	227,921	242,448
Pensions	38,215	41,941	38,630
Police and Prisons	100,525	104,900	116,653
Post and Marine	14,037	17,769	20,427
Post Office	27,965	36,799	33,123
Public Debt	42,898	43,871	59,358
Public Works Department	25,879	30,773	46,638
Public Works Annually Recurrent	22,768	131,416	36,172
Public Works Extraordinary	31,890	114,827	49,020
Treasury and Supply Control	51,128	67,929	70,587
Miscellaneous	189,775	243,183	201,387
Total expenditure from local funds	1,118,996	1,513,472	1,448,367
Colonial Development and Welfare	190,564	288,720	353,496
Total expenditure	1,309,560	1,802,192	1,801,863

The Public Debt amounted to $520,794 at the end of 1950. There have been various borrowings in recent years for improvements and development.

The principal forms of direct taxation are as follows :—

Land and House Taxes. Land tax in St. Vincent and Union Island (the largest dependency) is 1s. per acre or part thereof, on properties up to 10 acres, and 2s. per acre or part thereof over 10 acres. In the other island dependencies it varies between 3d. and 9d. per acre or part of an acre. The tax upon houses, which is levied only in St. Vincent, Union Island and Bequia, is based on the assessed annual rental, and ranges from 2s. on houses the rental of which is between £3 and £5 to five per cent. on houses of a rental over £15 per annum.

Income Tax. Income tax rates range from 3 cents in the dollar on the first $500 of chargeable income on a graduated scale to 78 cents in the dollar on income over $15,000. The first $480 of income is free of tax, and the following allowances are also made : wife ($240), dependent child ($120), dependent relative ($120), life insurance (up to one-sixth of income or $1,200 whichever is less). The tax on companies is at the flat rate of 30 cents per dollar of chargeable income.

Succession duties are payable except where the successor is the wife of the predecessor, or where the net value of the property in respect of which estate duty is payable on the death of the deceased, exclusive of property settled otherwise than by the will of the deceased, does not exceed £500, or where property is left for charitable purposes. The rates of succession duty are graded according to the value of the succession and the degree of kinship of the successor.

Digitized by Google

Local Government

The population, assessed annual rental of properties, revenue and expenditure of the various towns are as follows :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Town	Population (1946 Census)	Assessed Annual Rental (1947 estimates)	Revenue (1947 estimates)	Revenue (1949 estimates)	Expenditure (1947 estimates)	Expenditure (1949 estimates)
		$	$	$	$	$
Kingstown	4,831	n.a.	33,780	41,925	33,560	38,316
Georgetown	1,119	14,227	1,603	1,781	1,598	1,776
Calliaqua	511	5,187	573	770	521	766
Layou	1,376	6,723	579	946	521	941
Barrouallie	1,222	8,185	897	1,095	865	1,060
Chateaubelair	1,306	6,933	777	920	775	903
Port Elizabeth	196	4,127	192	882	182	748
	10,561	45,382	38,401	48,319	38,022	44,510

Currency and Banking

There is no local currency system, and United Kingdom coins circulate at face value, silver being legal tender for any amount and copper for any sum not exceeding 1s. Trinidad Government notes, which exchange at 4s. 2d. per dollar, are legal tender for any amount. Commercial transactions are carried out on a dollars and cents basis, and from 1948 the Government also adopted this method of accounting. St. Vincent, as one of the Windward Islands, is participating in the common currency system for the countries of the Eastern Caribbean (*see* Appendix, page 273).

Banking and credit facilities are provided by two local concerns—the St. Vincent Agricultural Credit and Loan Bank Limited and the St. Vincent Co-operative Bank Limited—and by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas). Each of these banks has a Savings Department ; the Agricultural Credit and Loan Bank had 1,123 depositors, with deposits amounting to £13,765, and the Co-operative Bank, 2,659 depositors, with deposits amounting to £12,850, at the end of 1948 ; the rate of interest payable on deposits was 2 per cent. by the former and 2½ per cent. by the latter, and 1 per cent. in the case of Barclays Bank.

There is also a Government Savings Bank, which pays 2½ per cent. on deposits. The number of depositors, and the amounts of deposits and withdrawals, in this bank in recent years are shown in the following table :—

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK

Year	Number of Depositors	Amount of Deposits	Amount of Withdrawals
		£	£
1940	1,127	6,369	4,818
1941	1,216	9,940	6,223
1942	1,429	24,245	8,618
1943	1,839	31,632	15,500
1944	2,046	33,149	24,147
1945	2,170	32,006	20,563
1946	2,323	38,277	31,942
1947	2,455	33,767	35,400
1948	2,440	47,008	37,991
1949	2,546	47,646	46,662
1950	2,730	44,381	49,860

Private Investment

All local companies are engaged in trade in general merchandise ; the only externally controlled companies are those undertaking life, fire and general insurance. There is no information available as to the amount (if any) of external commercial capital which is invested in the colony.

National Income

In 1942 Dr. Benham estimated the national income at £855,000, or £14 5s. per head. No more recent estimate has been made.

Cost of Living

An index of changes in the cost of living in the colony is obtained by combining three separate indices, which are representative of the movements of the cost of living in Kingstown, the Windward and Leeward rural areas, and the Grenadines, respectively. The weighting of these indices is based on an enquiry into the expenditure of working-class families which was carried out in 1942 ; their movements have not diverged from each other to any marked extent in subsequent years, and the combined index would appear to be of fairly general application. The movements of the combined index have been as follows in recent years :—

COST OF LIVING

(*August* 1939=100)

1946 June ..	189	1949 June ..	222
December	201	December	224
1947 June ..	206	1950 June ..	228
December	214	December	228
1948 June ..	224	1951 June ..	245
December	221	December	264

There is a general control over prices, exercised through a Prices Control Board. Maximum selling prices for locally-produced commodities are fixed from time to time, and on imported goods there are also fixed permitted rates of profit which may be added to their cost when landed in the colony. There is no subsidisation of foodstuffs. Rents are controlled through a Rent Assessment Board.

Balance of Trade and Payments

Imports and exports in recent years have been as follows :—

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Year	Total imports (c.i.f.)	Total exports (f.o.b.)
	£	£
1937	203,304	187,086
1938	198,786	210,642
1939	216,578	240,326
1940	248,511	243,008
1941	248,036	283,565
1942	197,678	229,639
1943	327,292	165,774
1944	423,749	204,367
1945	382,341	192,694
1946	450,497	216,053
1947	692,967	234,647
1948	622,782	411,410
1949	654,067	444,846
1950	818,074	446,115

The value of re-exports has been small.

Digitized by Google

The following tables show the sources and destinations of the principal imports and exports respectively in pre-war and post-war years :—

ST. VINCENT

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1947			1948		
		Quantity	*Value* £	*Main Sources* £000s	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main Sources* £000s	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main Sources* £000s
Wheaten flour	lb.	3,644,430	21,153	Canada (17·1), U.K. (3·7)	4,719,386	92,789	Canada (92·7)	4,036,424	81,738	Canada (81·7)
Rice	lb.	2,033,905	9,134	B. Guiana (8·3), India (0·8)	1,416,374	16,806	B. Guiana (16·8)	1,134,397	13,753	B. Guiana (13·7)
Fish, preserved and canned	lb.	679,982	6,939	Newfoundland (6·0), Canada (0·86)	641,003	23,804	Canada (10·3) Newfoundland (8·7)	604,039	21,770	Canada (18·5), Newfoundland (3·0).
Meat, salted, and bacon and hams	lb.	55,506	1,867	Argentina (0·7), U.K. (0·59)	88,897	7,321	Canada (4·7), Argentina (1·8)	135,320	10,761	Canada (7·2), Australia (2·7).
Butter and substitutes	lb.	79,684	3,986	U.K. (2·5), New Zealand (0·58)	74,749	9,286	Canada (6·8), Australia (2·4)	72,767	9,689	Australia (6·9), Canada (2·5).
Sugar, refined and unrefined	lb.	836,960	3,952	U.K. (1·5), Barbados (1·3), B. Guiana (1·1)	916,734	11,300	Barbados (11·3)	746,077	11,046	Barbados (11·0).
Beer and Ale	gallons	6,805	1,656	U.K. (1·6)	31,406	12,006	Canada (11·6)	12,499	5,981	U.K. (5·5).
Tobacco and Cigarettes	lb.	38,182	5,010	U.K. (4·2), U.S.A. (0·35)	62,593	10,881	U.K. (4·9), Canada (4·6)	54,056	10,523	Canada (5·9), U.K. (4·0).
Cotton piece goods	sq. yds.	828,665	16,205	U.K. (10·4), U.S.A. (5·3)	850,742	83,387	U.S.A. (68·5), U.K. (6·5), Canada (5·8)	781,192	65,920	U.S.A. (33·2), Canada (8·6), U.K. (5·0).
Apparel	—	—	8,722	U.K. (3·2), Japan (2·4), Hong Kong (1·4)	—	18,005	U.S.A. (6·6), Canada (6·5), U.K. (4·0)	—	17,139	U.S.A. (7·0), Canada (4·0), U.K. (3·7).
Boots and shoes	doz. pairs	4,122	6,040	U.K. (2·1), Czechoslovakia (1·6), Canada (0·96)	3,791	22,854	Canada (14·9), U.K. (4·9), U.S.A. (1·9)	2,919	18,223	Canada (9·7), U.K. (6·8).
Lumber	ft.	478,927	6,237	U.S.A. (4·4), Canada (1·5)	1,223,781	43,968	U.S.A. (28·3), Canada (10·0)	503,342	16,360	Canada (7·7), U.S.A. (7·7).
Iron and steel manufactures, etc.	—	—	7,822	U.K. (5·9), U.S.A. (0·35)	—	28,691	U.K. (20·6), Canada (2·4), U.S.A. (1·6)	—	24,085	U.K. (16·5), U.S.A. (2·4), Canada (1·8).
Motor cars and trucks	number	35	5,234	U.K. (3·0), Canada (1·9)	66	21,836	Canada (12·1), U.K. (9·1)	62	20,420	U.K. (14·3), Canada (5·5).
Machinery	—	—	4,473	U.K. (5·4), U.S.A. (1·4), Germany (1·1)	—	31,904	U.K. (19·6), U.S.A. (7·5), Canada (3·3)	—	28,193	U.K. (20·9), U.S.A. (3·9), Canada (2·9).
Hardware	—	—	2,884	U.K. (1·0), U.S.A. (0·73)	—	17,829	U.K. (8·1), U.S.A. (2·8)	—	11,966	U.K. (7·6), Canada (2·3), U.S.A. (1·8).
Paper and manufactures	—	—	4,591	U.K. (2·1), U.S.A. (1·2), Canada (0·58)	—	13,607	Canada (6·5), U.K. (2·7), U.S.A. (2·5)	—	14,051	Canada (8·8), U.K. (3·6).
Bags and sacks	doz.	13,921	2,877	U.S.A. (1·8), India (0·8)	2,743	2,090	U.S.A. (1·5)	7,621	8,181	India (4·7), U.S.A. (2·2), U.K. (1·0).
Manures	tons	597	4,976	U.K. (4·2), Germany (0·75)	609	10,951	U.K. (10·8)	483	9,948	U.K. (8·1), Belgium (0·96).
Motor Spirit	gallons	99,711	2,510	Trinidad (all)	157,388	6,413	Trinidad (all)	164,499	8,590	Trinidad (all).
Soap	lb.	251,571	3,360	U.K. (3·1)	36,945	2,525	Canada (1·3), U.K. (0·38), U.S.A. (0·38)	29,019	2,405	U.K. (1·2), Canada (0·88).
Cement	tons	626	2,685	U.K. (1·6), Canada (0·99)	1,657	10,602	U.K. (9·4), Canada (1·2)	1,578	11,328	U.K. (9·1), Canada (2·2).

Digitized by Google

ST. VINCENT
PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

Commodity	*Unit of Quantity*	1938			1947			1948		
		Quantity	*Value* £	*Main destinations* £000s	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main destinations* £000s	*Quantity*	*Value* £	*Main destinations* £000s
Arrowroot	lb.	8,179,209	91,638	U.S.A. (62·2), U.K. (16·1) Canada (7·1)	6,667,151	86,231	U.S.A. (65·3), U.K. (17·9)	6,360,057	163,775	U.S.A. (113·5), U.K. (42·4).
Raw Cotton (Sea Island)	lb.	688,224	60,260	U.K. (58·7)	213,808	25,800	U.K. (25·0)	258,794	44,504	U.K. (44·3).
Copra	lb.	1,665,304	8,302	Barbados (3·5), Trinidad (2·5), U.K. (2·3)	2,654,956	44,807	Barbados (all)	3,317,454	62,940	Barbados (all).
Coconuts	number	1,557,510	4,436	Canada (2·2), U.S.A. (2·0)	75,498	510	Barbados (0·5)	79,660	676	Barbados (0·67).
Groundnuts	lb.	263	2	St. Lucia (all)	498,624	17,444	Trinidad (10·9), B. Guiana (5·7)	498,001	20,766	Trinidad (16·1), B. Guiana (2·3).
Livestock	number	7,692	9,892	Trinidad (9·5)	18,199	16,882	Trinidad (16·7)	12,225	16,300	Trinidad (12·4).
Potatoes	bags	6,097	1,993	Trinidad (1·9)	24,678	18,376	Trinidad (18·3)	19,113	21,408	Trinidad (20·8).
Cassava starch	lb.	474,711	3,116	Trinidad (2·3), Barbados (0·76)	548,967	8,755	Trinidad (8·5)	663,023	12,034	Trinidad (11·9).
Spices	lb.	53,519	1,174	U.K. (0·6), Grenada (0·5)	72,894	2,311	Grenada (1·2), B. Guiana (0·3), St. Lucia (0·3)	84,125	9,292	U.S.A. (7·7), Canada (0·77), U.K. (0·61).
Bananas	bunches	58,258	3,759	Canada (3·3), Barbados (0·42)	1,408	265	U.S.A. (0·26)	8,988	1,934	U.S.A. (all).
Molasses and syrup	gallons	214,040	12,317	U.S.A. (9·3), Canada (2·9)	40	2	Grenada (all)	—	—	—

Digitized by Google

Changes in the direction of trade, before and after the war, have been as follows :—

DIRECTION OF TRADE

	Sources of imports			*Destinations of exports*		
	1938	1947	1948	1938	1947	1948
	%	%	%	%	%	%
United Kingdom	43	23	30	40	19	29
Canada	17	37	36	8	0·5	1
Other British countries ..	18	13	15	15	52	38
U.S.A.	14	24	17	35	28	32
Other countries	8	3	2	2	0·5	—

In recent years there has been a considerable surplus of merchandise imports, which is probably due to re-stocking after the scarcities of the war years and to the carrying out of development work. Remittances from workers abroad (see page 266 above) are an important invisible item in the balance of payments ; in 1950 they were running at the rate of £200,000 annually. It does not seem likely that interest payments in either direction are very large.

There is an official licensing system for both imports and exports ; since 1948 dollar imports have been kept to a minimum, and imports from hard currency sources are restricted to essential goods unobtainable elsewhere. Export licences are freely granted so long as supplies for the local market are reasonably adequate.

IV. DEVELOPMENT

Government Development

Under the Colony's Ten-Year Development Plan, which was approved by the Secretary of State in October, 1947, expenditure amounting to £1,106,433 was proposed for the period 1946–56 ; certain Development and Welfare schemes already in progress at the time the Plan was formulated were incorporated in it. In formulating the Plan, a list of all projects regarded as desirable for the development of the Colony was first made ; this was known as the Master Plan, but its total cost was estimated at over £3¼ million, which was far too great in relation to the finances available. The Plan finally put forward, known as the Practical Plan, represents a selection of the most urgent projects for which sufficient finance was expected to be available. As compared with the Master Plan, large reductions in expenditure were made ; for example, the proposed expenditure on housing was approximately £480,000 less, on roads £470,000 less, on health £275,000 less, on education £236,000 less, and on agriculture and forestry £138,000 less.

The sources of the funds for the Practical Plan were as follows :—

	£
Colonial Development and Welfare allocation (from Windward Islands grant)	345,858
Loans for self-supporting schemes	360,000
Loans for non-self-supporting schemes ..	41,500
Colony funds	359,075
	1,106,433

Annually recurring charges on local funds after 1956 were estimated at £35,157. The following table shows the distribution of the proposed expenditure among the various items :—

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

	£	%
Communications	246,500	22·28
Economic	338,224	30·58
Agriculture	265,614	24·0
Fisheries	12,710	1·15
Electricity	50,000	4·52
Tourism	10,000	0·91
Social	425,464	38·46
Town and Village improvements	202,180	18·27
Education	86,096	7·78
Medical and Public Health	74,258	6·71
Social Welfare	42,930	3·89
Town Planning, Housing, etc.	20,000	1·81
Miscellaneous	42,454	3·83
Loan Charges	43,172	3·90
Reserve against unforeseen contingencies ..	10,159	0·95
Total ..	1,106,433	100·00

The following table shows the proposed expenditure on the principal schemes under each heading :—

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

	£
Communications	
Road construction and maintenance ..	120,000
Harbour improvement at Kingstown ..	86,000
Reorganisation of telephone system ..	40,000
Agriculture	
Arrowroot factories and research ..	70,000
Campden Park agricultural experiment station	66,000
Land Settlement schemes	57,244
Agricultural staff	53,740
Soil conservation	11,700
Fisheries—organisation and development ..	12,710
Town and village improvements	
Kingstown sewerage	61,500
„ water supply	35,000
„ improvements	18,500
„ markets	10,000
Village water supplies	50,000
„ improvements	20,000
Education	
School buildings	43,300
Training of teachers	17,450
Medical and Public Health	
Hospitals and health centres	47,410
Training of nurses	12,500
Social Welfare	
Prison farm and Delinquents' home ..	33,800
Social Welfare Organisations	15,860
Town Planning, Housing, slum clearance (preliminary)	20,000
Additional Public Works Department staff	22,700

Digitized by Google

At the end of September, 1950, total expenditure on schemes included in the Plan was £448,911—£256,055 from C.D. and W. grants, £64,106 from loans, and £128,750 from local funds—as compared with a proposed expenditure of £595,654 in this period. Expenditure was at or near the level provided for in the Plan for this period in regard to agriculture, education, and social welfare, and a considerable amount had been done in regard to road construction, medical services, and improvements in Kingstown; with other schemes, in particular those for harbour building at Kingstown, the reorganisation of the telephone system, and rural improvements and water supplies, little progress had been made. A review of the Development Plan was undertaken at the beginning of 1950, which showed that its total cost was likely to be approximately 25 per cent., or £258,000, more than originally estimated, and also that as a result of rising costs and expenditure, the financial position of the colony had become less favourable, so that the increased burden of recurrent expenditure in connection with the Plan was likely to prove a serious problem. As a result, the scale of the Plan is likely to be reduced in various directions, and certain projects, in particular the Kingstown harbour scheme and the telephone reorganisation plan, the cost of which appears to be unduly high in relation to probable returns, are likely to be left in abeyance.

As already mentioned, a hydro-electric plant is to be constructed by the Colonial Development Corporation at a cost of £200,000, of which up to £50,000—to be raised by a loan—may be contributed by the St. Vincent Government. (The sum of £50,000 was allocated for electricity development in the Practical Plan).

No private development schemes of importance appear to be contemplated at the present time.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Imperial weights and measures are in use throughout the colony, though for capacity the accepted measure is the "bottle", which is approximately one-sixth of a gallon.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX

REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND AGREEMENTS

The Eastern Caribbean Unified Currency Scheme

A common Currency Board, composed of representatives of British Guiana, Trinidad, Barbados, and the Windward and Leeward Islands, has been set up for the administration of currency affairs for these territories, and since August, 1951, it has issued notes to be used in all of them ; these notes are replacing the separate issues formerly made in British Guiana, Barbados and Trinidad (Trinidad notes have also been used in the Windward and Leeward Islands) which will in due course be entirely withdrawn from circulation. The coinage of these territories at present consists, with minor exceptions, of United Kingdom coin, but it is intended to replace this with local coinage.

The sterling backing for the new currency has been secured by the transfer to its Currency Fund of appropriate sums from the Currency Funds of British Guiana, Barbados and Trinidad.

Regional Organisations

The *West Indies Development and Welfare Organisation* was established in 1940, in accordance with the recommendation of the West India Royal Commission. The Organisation, which is under a Comptroller, directly responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, is intended to keep under continuous review the social problems of the West Indies, and its services are available to advise Colonial Administrations on their problems. Its main duties are to work out, with the aid of its staff of expert advisers, long-term programmes of social reform, to consider schemes submitted by local West Indian Governments, to advise the Secretary of State in regard to grants made to these Governments under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, and to supervise the administration of such grants. In the absence of any federal organisation, it is also being increasingly used for arranging and servicing conferences of Colonial representatives for the consideration of questions of regional concern. The Organisation is situated in Barbados.

The *Caribbean Commission* was first established in 1942 as an Anglo-American body ; the French and Netherlands Governments accepted an invitation to join it in 1945. It is purely advisory in character ; its objects are to encourage and strengthen social and economic co-operation between the participating Powers in the Caribbean, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of research. The Comptroller for Development and Welfare Organisation and the British Section of the Commission have a joint secretariat and clerical staff.

A conference of representatives of the Legislatures of the British West Indian Colonies, held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 1947, recommended the creation of a *Standing Closer Association Committee* of representatives of the Legislatures of the British Caribbean Colonies, under a Chairman appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to consider and make recommendations on various questions concerning the closer association of these Colonies. All the Legislatures agreed to take part in the work of this Committee. In October, 1949, it issued a report, recommending a federal structure, giving defined powers to the federal authority and leaving residual powers with the individual territories ; there would be a Federal Legislature with a House of Assembly of some 50 members elected by universal adult suffrage, and a nominated Senate. The Executive would be a Council of State, with a majority dependent on the elected House of Assembly, and would be presided over by a Governor-General appointed by the Queen. The Governor-General would have reserve powers in regard to defence, foreign affairs, and matters affecting the financial stability of the Federation.

By 1952 this report had been discussed by all the territorial legislatures with the exception of British Honduras, and all except British Guiana had, with various qualifications, accepted the principle of federation. In February, 1952, the Secretary of State for the Colonies suggested to the Governments concerned that a conference should be held later in the year at which the remaining points of difference might be discussed with a view to reaching agreement.

Other Commissions established by the Montego Bay Conference have reported on Customs Union and the Public Services in the region, but these reports have not as yet received much attention in the territories concerned, and no action has been taken on them. The Conference also set up a *Regional Economic Committee* for the British West Indies (including British Guiana and British Honduras). This Committee consists of one member appointed by each participating Government ; the Economic Adviser to the Comptroller of the Development and Welfare Organisation is its permanent Deputy Chairman. Its principal function is to act as an advisory and consultative body to the participating Governments on economic matters of regional importance and to provide for the exchange of information between these Governments. It also undertakes any other economic functions which may be assigned to it by Governments, and advises them on matters relating to the British Caribbean Trade Commissioner Service. This Service has an office in Canada, and it is planned to establish a similar office in the United Kingdom in the near future.

Regional Marketing Agreements

Sugar

Since the outbreak of war in 1939, the British Ministry of Food has been the sole importer of sugar for the United Kingdom, and has purchased all the sugar which the colonies could export, at prices which were negotiated for a year at a time and were increased as costs of production rose. Shipments were also purchased by the Ministry of Food on behalf of Canada and other territories, including non-producing colonies. Prices have been as follows :—

Years	*Price per ton*		
	£	s.	d.
1946	19	10	0
1947	24	5	0
1948–9	27	5	0
1950	30	10	0
1951	32	17	6
1952	38	10	0

These prices include the pre-war amounts of freight and insurances, but not subsequent additions, though these latter are in fact paid by the Ministry.

Since 1947 it has been provided that in each sugar-producing territory sums amounting to £2 15s. 0d. per ton exported (in Barbados per ton produced) should be contributed to reserve funds for price stabilisation, capital rehabilitation, and labour welfare. The standard rates of contribution have been : to price stabilisation, £1 5s. 0d. ; to capital rehabilitation, £1 ; and to labour welfare, 10s. The stabilisation funds have not yet been drawn on ; the other two funds are being used as intended.

In 1949–50 long term arrangements were negotiated between the United Kingdom Government and the exporting colonies, covering a period up to the end of 1958, and limits were laid down, above which for the time being producers should not plan to export. Up to the end of 1952 the United Kingdom would continue to buy all exports, but from 1953 to 1958 certain quantities only would be bought at guaranteed prices, and any surplus would be offered competitively either in the preferential

Digitized by Google

markets of the United Kingdom and Canada or in world markets. In 1951 the period of these arrangements was extended to 1959 ; the Ministry of Food is not to be responsible for sales to Canadian refiners after the end of 1952. For the British West Indies and British Guiana, the total amount to be exported each year has been fixed at 900,000 tons of raw sugar, of which 670,000 tons is to be bought by the United Kingdom at guaranteed prices. The distribution of these totals between the various West Indian territories is still under negotiation.

Rice

Since the beginning of 1947 there has been an agreement between British Guiana and the Eastern Caribbean territories—Barbados, Trinidad and the Windward and Leeward Islands—by which the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board has offered all its surplus rice for sale to these territories at fixed prices, and the purchasing Governments on their side have agreed to obtain all their requirements from British Guiana. Under a renewal of the contract, taking effect for three years from the beginning of 1952, the purchasing Governments can, at three months' notice, vary the amount of their requirements. If there is any surplus over the needs of these territories, the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board can sell elsewhere (in the past, for example, some rice has been sold to Jamaica).

Fats and Oils

Since 1944, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Windward and Leeward Islands, and British Guiana have sought to provide their own supplies of coconuts, copra, and coconut products. Under a Fats and Oils Agreement which was concluded in 1947, for a period of five years, the Governments of these territories have undertaken not to permit exports of these products outside their territories except to the extent that such exports are surplus to local requirements, or to allow imports of these products or of other oils and fats which may be in commercial competition with them, unless supplies are not available within the area covered by the Agreement. The Agreement also provides for the determination of the f.o.b. price at which copra may be exported within the area, and for relating the prices of edible oil, soaps and other products to the price of copra. A conference to consider the renewal of the agreement is to be held during 1952 ; it appears likely that it will be extended for a further period, though there may be some modifications in its terms.

(51796) Wt. 4041/— K13 2/53 Hw.

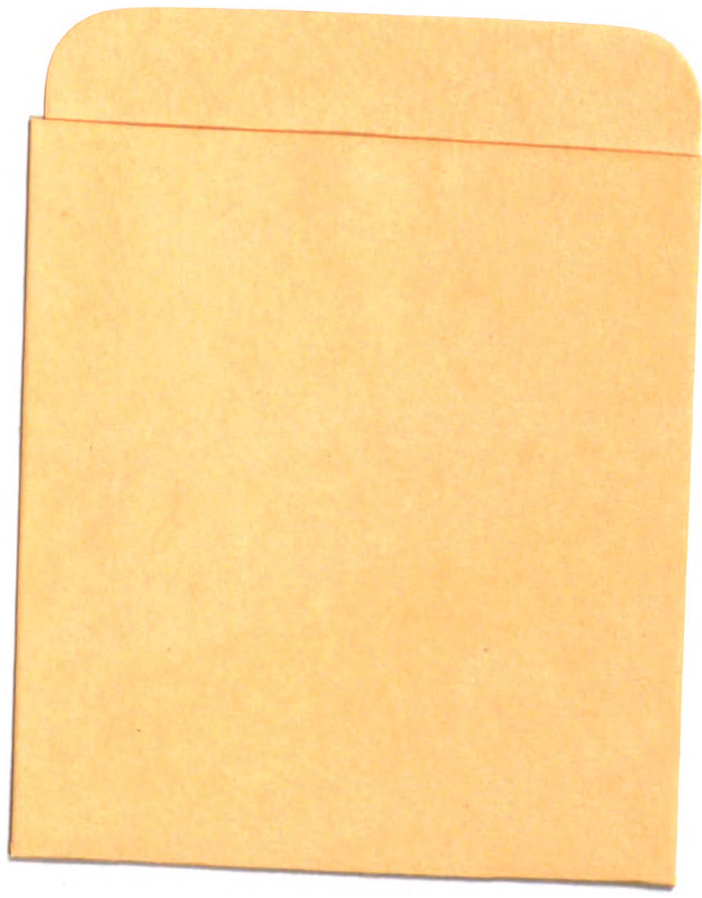
Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google



Digitized by Google

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
wils 1951:3-4
Folio 330.842 G7982
Great Britain. Colonial Office.
An Economic survey of the colonial terri
3 1951 002 225 526 8

Minnesota Library Access Center
9 ZA R02 D11 S10 TD V

Digitized by Google